

Containers Expand Gardening Options

Don't let a small back yard limit your gardening.

In a recent conversation with a retired gentleman, he told me that he would love to have fresh home grown vegetables but he doesn't have the space in his yard for a garden.

I told him he might want to try a gardening from a new perspective. Space limitations require a different approach to gardening but should not limit gardening.

If you live in an apartment, condominium or house without a suitable garden space but want fresh vegetables then consider "container" gardening. By growing vegetables in containers, gardens can be located on a balcony, terrace, in a hanging basket or even a window box.

The amount of space each plant requires and the proper time to plant will vary according to the crop. "Quick Reference Home Vegetable Gardening Guide," N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Publication AG-12, is an excellent reference to help guide your gardening activities.

Do not be afraid to do something different. Creativity and experimentation often will yield the best results with limited space gardens.

Wooden boxes or barrels, clay or plastic pots, trash cans or even soil-filled plastic bags make excellent containers for limited space vegetable gardening. All containers must have some type of water drainage that also allows for air circulation to the root zone and sufficient volume to contain a soil mix.

Commercially prepared soil mixes, like those utilized for house plants, work best.

THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
Turf Specialist



However, for those of you who like to mix your own soil, try mixing equal portions of peat and sand. To each two-gallon bucket of this mixture, add and mix in thoroughly, one-fourth cup of dolomitic limestone and one-fourth cup of 8-8-8 fertilizer.

Commercial soil mixes will also benefit from the addition of the limestone and fertilizer. The added fertilizer is just a starter; additional fertilizer must be applied throughout the growing season.

Sunlight is critical for successful container gardening. Leafy crops, such as spinach and lettuce, as well as those grown for their roots, such as carrots and beets, can be grown in an area which receives filtered light throughout the day.

Vegetables grown for their fruits, like tomatoes and cucumbers, must receive a minimum of four to five hours of direct sunlight each day.

Container-grown plants located outdoors will require more frequent watering than indoor plants. The water status of the soil medium must be checked daily. Only water when the top layer of the growing medium

feels dry to the touch.

Excessive watering will cause disease problems and root rot. When watering the plant, water until water runs freely through the drainage holes.

Inadequate or improper watering can cause fertilizer salts to accumulate in the soil medium and severely restrict plant growth.

After seedling plants are established, regular application of soluble fertilizer is a must. Incorporate a soluble houseplant fertilizer into your watering regime.

You can obtain good results by using a soluble plant food like Peters or MiracleGro at one-half recommended strength with every other watering.

Another alternative is to use a slow-release fertilizer like Osmocote. Slow-release fertilizers will produce excellent results when incorporated into the soil at the rate of one to two tablespoons per gallon of soil mix.

If plants become very lush, fleshy or fail to produce significant amounts of fruit, reduce fertilization on the next crop.

A well-organized and maintained container garden should provide you with fresh vegetables, a source of recreation and a unique approach to limited space gardening.

In addition, many people enjoy the ornamental effects created by container grown vegetables.

(Send your questions or comments to The Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422. Please enclose a SASE if a reply is requested.)



PHOTO BY PAT O'LEARY

Sign Goes To Neals

The yard of Paul and Betty Neal, 8 Canal Way, Calabash, is the Carolina Shores Garden Club March "Yard of the Month". Their lawn features a landscaped, stepped terrace that creates an inviting entrance to their home; a row of welled trees that adds stately elegance; and a complementary accents of perennial and annual flowers.

CEDAR GROVE AREA NEWS

Program Honors Local Resident

BY BARBARA T. HEWETT

A Cedar Grove resident, the Rev. Moses Clyde Herring, pastor of Mt. Zion Church in Longwood, was the honoree at the African American Cultural Arts Festival held recently at the Brunswick County Government Center.

He was recognized for his many years of dedicated service to humanity.

Herring was keynote speaker at the event, with a message entitled, "Watchman, What Time Is It?"

Others receiving recognition were Reginald Lofton Hewett and Henry Boone, for artwork displayed; Henry Bryant, for dedication and making visitors comfortable; and Hattie Fullwood Chapman of Cedar Grove, the oldest mother present. She was accompanied by her son-in-law, Lt. William Earl Hewett, visiting from Goldsboro.

Levi Grissett II was the center of attention, with his prayer of thanksgiving for the small things that many times are overlooked.

Other program participants of note included Alexis Vaught, a South Brunswick Middle School seventh-grader who drew a standing ovation for her rendition of James Weldon Johnson's "Judgement Day."

Also on the program were the Rev. Thurman Everett and Etherine Butler.

Pleasant Surprises
Mattie Lane Hewett, former Cedar Grove columnist, received two very pleasant surprises in one week.

The first was coming through heart surgery with flying colors on Feb. 25.

Then, while she was undergoing dialysis treatment in Wilmington Friday, her grandsons Derwin and Devon arrived home without any advance notice from New York. With no key to the house, they visited with neighbors and relatives until their Grandma Mattie returned

home. The two plan to spend a week here while she recovers.

Also, Mattie's daughters, Gina, Lori and Taneidra were home from Greensboro to be at her bedside during her stay in the hospital last week.

Outreach Continues
Mission outreach groups seem to be the gathering point for ladies in the community who are too young to be considered senior citizens and are unemployed.

Group I met Feb. 17 at the home of the Rev. Charlie and Fannie Fullwood. Also present were their daughter, Ella, who has returned from Brooklyn, N.Y., as her mother's health is declining, and Evelyn and Etta Hewett, Ada Fullwood and Pencie Bryant.

Group II met Feb. 28 at Azalee Johnson's house with Magdeline and Lena Johnson, Queen Vereen and Pencie Grissett attending.

Tune In
Be sure to listen to the Cedar Grove Area News Thursdays at 3 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:15 a.m. on WVCB Radio (1410 AM).

17 Finalists Selected For County Spelling Bee

Seventeen students emerged as finalists in the Brunswick County Spelling Bee in grade-level competitions held last week at six county schools, including the current county champion.

One of the 17 will be named Brunswick County Spelling Bee champion at the county competition scheduled Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. at Bolivia Elementary School. That champion will represent Brunswick County at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., the last week of May.

The finalists include 1991 champion Leslie Myrie Jr., a seventh-grade student at South Brunswick Middle School. The son of Gladys and Leslie Myrie Sr. of Southport, this is his third year of competition in the bee. Myrie was first runner-up in the 1990 event.

This is the second consecutive year that he will be the only returning finalist; he will face an all-new field of competitors.

Other finalists are as follows, by school and grade:
Shallotte Middle: Lauren Spencer, fifth; Chrissy Hewett, sixth; Heather Heavener, seventh; and Mark Causey, eighth.

Waccamaw Elementary: Chris Russ, fifth; Carisa

Stanley, sixth; Jonathan Hughes, seventh; and Tamara Kelly, eighth.

Bolivia Elementary: Christopher Gore, fifth.

Southport Elementary: Heidi Layman, fifth.

South Brunswick Middle: Megan Jeans, sixth; Catherine Wosczyzna, eighth.

Leland Middle: Laronda Ballard, fifth; Bonnie Shaw, sixth; Willie Davis, seventh; and Gregory Lofton, eighth.

The grade-level school bees were the second round of competition at the local level. Classroom bees were held last month.

The students will be competing at the county bee for prizes that include, in addition to an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., a word processor, a set of encyclopedias, an almanac, an unabridged dictionary and a desk reference set.

Each of the 17 finalists will receive a trophy and an electronic speller.

The Brunswick County Spelling Bee is sponsored by the Shallotte Junior Woman's Club and the State Port Pilot of Southport. Debbie Lemon of Shallotte is the director.

Happy 2nd Birthday
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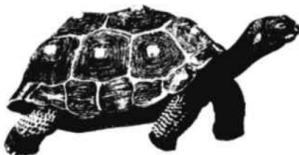
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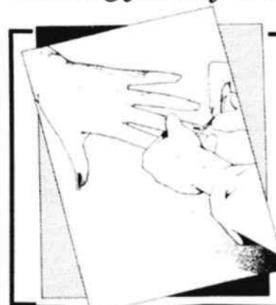
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