

AGRICULTURE

Gourds add ornate touch to lawns and gardens

Ornamental gourds can add a lot of visual fun to gardening! If you have a fence or trellis in full sun, try at least one of these tropical vines with showy flowers and unusually shaped fruit.

Several genera are appropriate for our area.

Cucurbita is the main family of gourds. The last Asian Malabar gourd has yellow flowers with black seeds and mottled green fruits striped with white. These sometimes grow to a foot long.

Another, the Calabazilla, has yellow flowers with orange-size hard-shelled fruit colored green and yellow.

C. Maxima not only includes the edible Hubbards, autumn and winter squash, but boasts the Turban, or Turk's Cap

gourd, a striking ornamental suggesting a turban in orange, green and pale yellow.

Most common of the Lageneria (lay-en-AY-ria) genera is the Calabash gourd. Flowers are white and fruits come in different shapes ranging from three inches to three feet. This is the gourd commonly made into dippers or in expensive bird houses.

Luffa is a popular genera of the gourd family. Fresh young

fruit can be eaten like cucumbers. Japanese dry young slices in the sun, while Malaysians relish the young leaves.

In some parts of the world luffa is used as a medicine to treat a variety of ailments from hemorrhage to aching teeth to hernias.

Usually gourd seeds are offered in mixed genera packages. However sometimes exotic types are sold separately with descriptive names such as

bottle, penguin, striped, pear, warty, and caveman's club.

Culture for gourds is the same as cucumbers and squash. Sow in permanent spot outdoors when the soil has warmed up. Let fruits ripen on the vine, but be sure to harvest before frost.

Gourds being used for ornamental displays should be wiped with a household disinfectant, cured in a dry, warm place (about 70 degrees) for three weeks, then moved to a cool

place. Any bruised fruit should be discarded. Rap gourds with the knuckles. If they give off a ring they are ready to be waxed (floor wax is best), painted, shellacked, or varnished.

Interested growers may contact the American Gourd Society, which offers an annual membership that includes information of all kinds in the Gourd. Write Secretary Treasurer, A.G. Society, Box 274, Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338.

BEYOND THE WEEDS
BY JEAN WINSLOW

Area wool pool slated

The area wool pool will be held on Thursday, June 20, from 8-11 a.m. at Hertford Supply Co. (Broughton Daily's).

not properly cared for may be rejected.

All counties in the Northeast District are invited to attend this annual pool. It is held as a joint effort with the Extension Service, NCDA and sheep producers.

Wool prices appear to be as follows for 1985:

- Clear Wool—6015
- Light Burry—5113
- Heavy Burry—4511
- Tags—1203

Producers should also remember to carry their receipts to the ASCS Office for subsidy payment.

Perquimans producers sold around 3,000 lbs. of wool last year.

Extension News

north carolina AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

By Jeff Coupland

Please mark your calendar and bring your wool properly packaged. Burlap bags are fine, but do not use plastic feed bags or tie with wire or staples. Wool

Madre to represent county at workshop

Gene Madre is Perquimans County's Delegate to the 1985 Resource Conservation Workshop to be held June 23-28 at North Carolina State Univer-

sity. Gene is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Madre of Hertford.

The week long course is held each year for high school students and is designed to stimulate interested young people to pursue conservation careers, to practice good conservation measures and to become staunch advocates of conservation.

The group will study subjects pertinent to resource conservation including soil characteristics and soil conservation, watershed and wildlife management, forestry woodlot management, and nonagricultural uses for soils.

In addition career opportunities in the field of conservation and development and a well rounded recreation program are part of the curriculum.

The workshop is a annual event sponsored by the N.C. Association Soil of and Water Con-

servation Districts, the N.C. Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Soil Science Department and the Division of

Continuing Education at N.C. State University.

Locally Madre is sponsored by the Perquimans County Conservation Committee of the Albemarle Conservation District.



GENE MADRE

Pesticide regulations revised by board

RALEIGH— The North Carolina Pesticide Board revised their regulation on ground application of pesticides during their last meeting in Raleigh Friday, May 24. The regulation contains a new section which states, "No person shall apply a pesticide(s) under such conditions that drift from pesticide(s) particles or vapors results in adverse effect. This regulation becomes effective August 1, 1985.

In other action, the board accepted a settlement agreement with Fred Hampton of Sparta, Hampton, an unlicensed dealer, allegedly sold a restricted-use pesticide, Tordon 10K Pellets, to a non-certified and unsupervised person. The board levied a \$200 civil penalty against Hampton.

The board requested that the Pesticide Advisory Committee review and develop plans for the recertification of private applicators.

For more information contact the Pesticide section of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture at (919) 733-3556.

4-H Day

Perquimans County 4-H members are among hundreds of 4-H'ers from 17 counties in the Northeast District who will participate in the annual District 4-H Activity Day competition on June 26 at Williamston High School in Martin County.

The District 4-H Activity Day is being held to select winners to vie for top honors during North Carolina 4-H Congress July 22-25 at North Carolina State University, according to Juanita T. Bailey, county 4-H agent. Similar events are being held at five other locations in the state.

The 4-H'ers will compete in some 40 activities, ranging from archery, cooking and sewing to landscaping, automotive skill driving, crop production and wildlife conservation.

Perquimans County 4-H'ers who will participate and their programs are: Jason Harrell-Electric; Damion Burke-Crafts; Stan Griffin-Safety; Robbie Griffin-Poultry; Leah Harrell-Livestock Production; Cornelius Mack-Bicycle; Tisha Turner and Bernadine Johnson-Fruit and Vegetable Use; and Dallas Turner-Public Speaking.

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