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Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

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SHADE GARDENING FOR FOUR SEASONS

By

Dustin Lloyd, Juniper Level Botanic Garden, Raleigh, NC

Monday, November 25 at 7 p.m., Granville County Expo Center, 4185 U.S. Hwy 15 S, Oxford, NC

About the Program

Don't miss our upcoming program on creating thriving shade gardens year-round, with a special focus on the often-overlooked fall and winter seasons. Dustin will share valuable insights on selecting suitable plants and implementing effective maintenance techniques. Learn how to transform challenging shady spots into vibrant, colorful retreats that shine in every season. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or new to horticulture, this program will equip you with practical strategies to enhance your shade garden and create stunning landscapes, even in the most difficult areas of your yard.

About the Speaker

Dustin, a native of Granville County, brings over a decade of experience in gardening and plant care to this talk. His expertise in organic gardening practices, honed while managing a local urban farm, offers valuable insights into sustainable gardening techniques. In his current role at Juniper Level Botanic Garden, Dustin oversees a team of gardeners and manages daily tasks, gaining extensive hands-on experience with diverse plant collections -- including those thriving in shaded environments. His keen eye for aesthetic detail and commitment to sustainability make him uniquely qualified to discuss the challenges and opportunities shady sites present.

By: Dustin Lloyd

Photos: Plant Delights Nursery

President's Notes

Greetings Gardeners,

This may be the best weather for an October I can remember! And as I write this, the ten-day forecast looks fabulous into November.

For those of you that weren't at our last meeting, you missed a great presentation on native plants. The presentation focused on grasses including ornamental and wetland grasses, sedges and finally rushes. I have a completely new appreciation for these as landscape options. Check out their website, izelplants.com.

Our club is in need of a leader for the Post Office Garden. There may be nothing more visible to our community than the garden at the Post Office. There is already a group of club members that are regulars in the general care and maintenance of the garden. The leader will coordinate maintenance activities of this group. Let me know if you are interested.

David Quinn

Our Warm Autumn Weather

Can you remember ever having a fall as warm as this one? You've all probably heard that North Carolina actually has 12 seasons:

1. Winter 2. Fool's Spring 3. Second Winter 4. Spring of Deception 5. Third Winter 6. The Pollening 7. Actual Spring 8. Summer 9. Hell's Front Porch 10. False Fall 11. Second Summer 12. Actual Fall

At the moment we seem to be between "false fall" and "second summer," but who knows... we may get 13 seasons this year! Silliness aside, what would you call this season? I thought it was Indian Summer. Then it occurred to me that the expression which, to me, always brings images of red, gold, and bronze landscapes along with glorious sun and warm days (but not too warm), might be offensive to Native Americans. That led to a google search.

There are many ideas about why we call it Indian Summer. One is that Native Americans took advantage of unseasonably warm weather to gather in more food for the winter. Another guess is that settlers mistook the haziness of the days for smoke from Native American fires.

Here are the three criteria for Indian Summer, according to Minnesota Public Radio 1) a period of unusually warm; 2) which come in mid to late autumn; 3) and which comes after the first frost. So, we must not be having an Indian Summer yet.

There does not seem to be any disrespect intended by calling the phenomenon "Indian Summer," but there are other names used: second summer, Old Wives' summer, St. Martin's (November 11) summer, St. Luke's (November 18) summer, and many more. Whatever you call it, enjoy it while it lasts!

Compiled by Kat Ravenel

Sources : [NC PBS](#), [Minnesota Public Radio](#)



JCRA Plants for Auction in November 2024

Our October plant auction had to be delayed until our November meeting. Rob and Sophia have chosen something for everyone, so be sure to come to the meeting and bid!

***Hypericum forrestii*, Forrest St. John's Wort.**

This St. John's Wort grows to a semi-evergreen shrub 4' tall x 5' wide. Its new growth has light green leaves and red stems, fall colors are reds, yellow and orange. Summer flowers are bright yellow. This St. John's Wort takes normal water for our area and does best with sun and late day shade.



Photo: JC Raulston Arboretum, <https://jcra.ncsu.edu>

Salvia 'Newe Ya'ar.' This is a wonderful dual-purpose sage, Ornamental and culinary star in one plant! It likes a dry, well drained sunny location. It grows to a 3' tall x 6' Part sun, routine with grey green leaves and lavender-pink bloom spikes. We are on its border for hardiness; however, it should survive.



Photo: Plant Delights Nursery, www.plantdelights.com



Photo: JC Raulston Arboretum, <https://jcra.ncsu.edu>

Clematis integrifolia 'Blue Boy.' Part sun, routine water and well drained soil create a late spring nodding bell-shaped bloom that is blue and so worth having! Easy to grow, cut to the ground each late winter as it blooms on each spring's new growth. "Best when allowed to wind through and around other perennials."



Photo copyright by Ken Woolfenden, used with permission; www.clematisinternational.com.



Photo courtesy of Friedrich M. Westphal Clematiskulturen, <http://clematiszucht.de>

Taxodium distichum
'Falling Waters,' Weeping Bald Cypress. Will grow to 20' tall x 20' wide. The beauty of a well planted healthy Falling Waters cypress is so very striking! This beauty (grafted by Sophia) loves moist sunny spots where it will grow to 20' tall x 15' wide. Can be allowed to reach its height naturally or it can be assisted by staking.



Photos at Duke Gardens, by Kat Ravenel



Cornus 'NCCH3',
Cloudburst™ Dogwood. Developed at NCSU , Cloudburst likes part sun with late-day shade and well drained soil that is not allowed to dry out. Cloudburst blooms in the spring like *Cornus florida*, and the flowers look the same, but there are more of them and they are larger: 3½ to 4 inches wide. Best of all Cloudburst is highly disease resistant.



Cornus florida. Photo: © icotton111 [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)



Cornus florida. Photo: © Penny L. [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

Cloudburst™ is so new that there are no photos available. The flowers look like our native *Cornus florida*, shown here.

Happenings

The next workday at the **Granville Gardeners' PO Garden** will be Wed., Nov. 13, at 4:00 pm. We will do light weeding and tidying up. If we finish early enough, we'll head over to Strong Arm. Join us!

Come walk with us. We change the schedule around some, but Fridays at 7:30am is fairly consistent. We have about five regulars. If interested, contact Kat, and let us know good times for you. We have walked at the GAP and are also looking into meeting at some of the Conservancy trails .

Extension Master Gardeners **wreath-making:** Sat., Dec. 7, 9-10:30 and 11-12:30. Person County Extension Office, 304 S. Morgan St., Roxboro. 919-451-9745. Fee: \$45/wreath, cash or check only.

Native seed propagation. Sat., Dec. 14, at 2:00 pm, there will be a workshop on native seed propagation at the Art and Craft Space, 125 Main St., Oxford. You will learn three common methods of propagating seeds that require a period of cold stratification. Each participant will leave with three containers of seed and planting medium ready for the cold. Fee: \$15. Space is limited. Contact Kat

To-Do List for November

- Late fall and early winter are a good time to plant fruit and nut trees. Container blueberries can also be planted now. Check local nurseries for compact berry varieties, such as 'Baby Cakes' dwarf thornless blackberry. There are dwarf raspberry and blueberry cultivars now, too. Plant some of these low-growing thornless fruits in your perennial beds and mixed borders.
- Plant garlic now if you have not already done so.
- Leave fallen leaves in place in garden beds. Lawns benefit from a light layer of leaves, but continue to collect excess leaves and compost them.
- Clean and repair, if necessary, your garden tools and equipment before putting them away for the winter.
- Use the internet to order some seed catalogs if interested in trying some new or different vegetable varieties next year. At this time of the year, most garden magazines will have many mail order seed company advertisements. Try: Sources of Organic and Untreated Non-GMO Seeds which can be found here (at the moment): [Carolina Farm Stewards](#). Otherwise, a google search will bring up many sources. The Victory Seed Co. has seeds for the shorter tomato plants that have regular size tomatoes, www.victoryseeds.com. (Once on their site, search for "dwarf tomatoes.")
- Most outside gardening activities should be finished by now. Trees and shrubs can still be planted as long as the ground is not frozen. Install a cold frame in a sunny area to grow radishes, lettuce, spinach, and other greens. They are easy to build and instructions can be found on the internet.
- There is still time to apply lime, if needed.
- Most pruning should be put off until late winter or early spring when the weather is more comfortable. You can do fruit trees and grapes in Jan if the weather allows, otherwise do it in February pruning
- If you want to grow your own onion transplants, start seeds in December so that plants can be set out in February or early March. Use short-day or day neutral varieties for our area.
- Inventory your left-over seeds. Do a germination test if you are uncertain of their viability.
- If you are growing transplants, note that the average last freeze date for the area has been changed from April 21 to March 31. Some seeds need to be started as much as 12 weeks before setting out. Thus, seeds will need to be ordered in December or early January to be available by mid to late January.
- If we have a dry spell in December or January and the soil can be tilled, you may want to prepare part of your garden for planting early cool season crops because in the late winter and early spring the ground is often too wet to work. Note peas and bulb onions can be seeded in Jan and many plants can be seeded in February.
- For fescue lawns, November is the time to fertilize. This is the most important fertilization of the year.
- Have your soil tested now to avoid the spring rush. There is no charge for this service April through November.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Use pansies and other cool weather flowers to add color to your winter garden.
- Divide perennials such as hostas, phlox, and ferns.
- Start thinking about what you want to do differently next year, and **write it down**.

By Marty Finkel

Member Marketplace

Name: Joyce Cifers - Dalton Mill Nursery

Location: 2566 Dalton Mill Rd; Bullock, NC 27507
Phone: 919-482-9883

We are enjoying such beautiful fall weather. So nice to be able to get out and plant now, to enjoy in the spring. At our October meeting, we had an awesome program on the Workhorses of the Garden. I have many of the native grasses and sedges available along with lots of the companion perennials. This is a partial list of what we have: Carex Pennsylvanica, Chasmanthium latifolium, Eragrostis curvula-Weeping Lovegrass, Juncus Inflexus, Muhlenbergia capillaris-Pink Muhly, Little Blue Stem, and many more. Some of the companion perennials are still blooming. Please call to schedule a visit to make your selections.



We have a few feature plants available like Jane Magnolia, Little Gem Magnolia, Weeping Cherry, Osmanthus Fragrans, Crimson Queen Japanese Maple, Edgeworthia, and Ginkgo Biloba. These are in small quantity so contact me quickly if you're interested in any of these. These are in 7 to 15 gal containers for more instant gratification. The Jane Magnolias have blooms now.

Name: Judy McHugh.

Phone: 919-691-4790

I have a backyard nursery for old-fashioned flowers and shrubs. At present I have:

- butterfly bush (purple, yellow, and lavender)
- purple coneflower
- snowball bush
- spirea
- hydrangea (blue and limelight)
- green dragon
- bee balm
- honeysuckle bush

I'm at the Oxford farmers market on Saturday mornings from 8 o'clock until 12 o'clock. If it's an old-fashioned shrub or flower you're looking for, I may have it. Prices range from \$5 to \$10. Plants can be picked up at the farmers market, or arrangements can be made for pick up by calling me at 919-691-4790.

Name: James Counts

Location: Stem, NC
Phone: 516-449-1077

Available this month:
Bean sprouts!
Call to order in advance.



Name: Danny and Cindy DeVito.

My wife Cindy and I have been members of the Granville Gardeners for 10 plus years. We sell our fruits, vegetables, and plants at the Oxford Farmers Market. This month I will have Japanese persimmon and peppers.

Cindy will have holiday gift boxes. Each has an ornament, a candle, and either a chapstick holder or a tissue holder.



Name: Brittnee Worthy (Geassa Apothecary)

Location: Farm in Stem, Retail location in the Art and Craft Space, Oxford. The next Oxford pop-up will be November 2nd! Cottagecore Holiday Market at Haven Farm of Knightbridge is November 3rd (details below)!

General: We are a small batch herbal apothecary offering herbal products and botanical crafts grown mostly here in Granville County! Our products include herbal tinctures, bitters, and extracts, teas, salves, candles, hydrosols and soon I will have herbal honey, herbal latte powders, seasonal syrups, botanically dyed bandanas, botanically dyed yarn, botanical prints of my linocut artwork, dried and fresh bouquets, and more!

We have both our autumn and winter lines out now, including Elderberry Elixir and "Autumn Wander" immune boosting elixir and a beeswax scented candle for setting the autumn mood. With the coming of winter, we have new "In the Forest" candles, mushroom and herbal seasoning salts, "Sunshine Bitters" to aid digestion and offer some light in the cold months, as well as some new tea blends! You will, of course, also find our ongoing collection of tinctures, such as Panic Ease, Migraine Mender, Dream Weaver, and more. We will also have blue butterfly pea flower infused honey (yes, it's blue!) as well as art prints and botanically dyed bandanas!

If you miss our markets, we are always at the Art and Crafts Space in Oxford, NC!

Please follow @geassaapothecary on Instagram and Facebook for updates and herbal fun! I am also available to contact via geassaapothecary@gmail.com. Thank you so much for all your support, Granville Gardeners!



Name: Christina Henthorn – Wuerker Bee Apiary

I am a master beekeeper in Granville County, NC and keep 25ish hives. Swing by the Arts & Craft Space in downtown Oxford, Days Inn Oxford, Cecy’s Gallery Durham, The Antique Market Clarksville or check me out and shop for honey and beeswax goodies at: <https://www.wuerkerbee.com/>



Planting Pansies at the Oxford Post Office

Have you seen the front garden at the Oxford Post Office recently? Bordering the front walk you will see a colorful collection of pansy plants. The club had purchased them from fellow member Joyce Cifers.

On the early morning of Friday October 4th Peter Gumaer and Kay Nutt were removing spent flowers and breaking up the soil in preparation for pansy planting that afternoon. By late afternoon , seven Granville Gardener members arrived ready to plant. Members who worked in the garden were Peter Gumaer, David Quinn, Jim Nutt, James Counts, Vickie Johnson, Yvonne Word, Kat Ravenel, and Kay Nutt

The group worked a little over an hour getting the plants into the ground. Job finished -- and those who could went for supper at The Tobacco Wood Brewing Company Restaurant.



Report and photos by Kay Nutt

GRANVILLE GARDENERS EXPO
HOME - GARDEN - DECOR
SATURDAY
APRIL 26, 2025
9AM-3PM
GRANVILLE EXPO CENTER
OXFORD, NC

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Q: *Why should we leave leaves where they fall? Don't they smother grass when left on it?*

A: Yes and no. If a thick layer of leaves, or leaves left in large piles, remains on turf for a long enough time, it will damage or kill the grass. However, research has shown that shredded leaves thinly spread over the grass actually feeds it and helps it grow stronger.

In the early 1990s Michigan State researchers began studying the effect of leaves on lawncare. They made leaf piles on plots of grass to see how much it took to kill a lawn. In the spring, they found that leaf covered lawns were among the first to turn green.

“ ‘It's not only not a problem, it's awesome,’ says Dr. Thomas Nikolai, a specialist in Michigan State University's plant and soil science department, in an interview with The Christian Science Monitor.”

It's best not to let a thick layer of leaves accumulate on the lawn but to use a mulching mower (or even a non-mulching one) to shred them into smaller pieces that shortly sink into the grass and begin to decompose. Do this a few times during the season -- it fertilizes the soil



Photo: LayLa Burgess
©2018 HGIC Clemson Extension



Millipede and



Roly-poly

Photos: publicpicturesdomain.net

If the leaves are accumulating on the lawn faster than you can mulch-mow, rake or blow them onto garden beds and leave in a 2 to 3" layer. This will add nutrients, help insulate the ground, keep in moisture, help protect the plants, and provide cover for overwintering moth and butterfly larvae, other insects, frogs and salamanders. If leaves are still accumulating, blow or rake them into large piles in out-of-the-way locations. When I had my gardens, my husband dumped leaves at several sites for me to wheelbarrow to garden and/or vegetable beds for mulch.

If you have wooded areas, you could make large leaf piles and leave for the winter. In the spring, the bottom layer will be ready to use as compost, and the middle and top layers as mulch for various gardens as well as under shrubs and around trees (leave 5" of bare ground between the trunks and the mulch).

I was surprised to learn of the many creatures that depend on leaf litter for survival. Here are only a few examples: Centipedes, millipedes, roly-poly (aka sowbug), worms, and snails eat leaf litter to some degree, as do microscopic decomposers like fungi and bacteria. It shelters spiders that eat insects.

Stick bugs have an insurance program that helps ensure a good percentage of their eggs surviving winter: After mating, the females (disguised as, you know, sticks) drop more than 100 eggs from treetops that free-fall to the ground, where they overwinter in the leaf litter – **they look like seeds!** Ants think they are seeds and take them back to their underground nests where they hatch into baby stick bugs the next spring.



Stick bug
 Photo: brisbaneinsects.com
 Tony Shaw



Collection of stick bug eggs
 Photo: Wikipedia Commons



Mourning cloak butterfly
 Photo: Julie Michaelson

Cocoons and pupae of some moths, beetles, and bugs overwinter in moist leaf litter, and some butterflies overwinter in it as adults – two examples are the Mourning Cloak and the Question mark. Also found in this sheltering layer are adult nine-spotted ladybugs. Examples of butterflies and moths that can be found there in the pupa stage are Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly, Hummingbird Clearwing moth, and the exquisite Luna moth. In autumn, "94 percent of moths drop off the tree when they develop as larvae," says University of Delaware entomologist [Doug Tallamy](#). The insects land under the cover of leaves, bark and soil and pupate in cocoons, emerging as adults the following spring.



Luna Moth
 Photo: Marty Finkel



Hummingbird Clearwing moth
 Photo: David Poulos



Question Mark butterfly
 Photo: Sturgis McKeever, Southern GA University, Bugwood.org



Photo: D.J.Weaver, CC-BY-NC

Look for this guy under the leaves, too!

By: Marty Finkel Information sources: Treehugger "Skip the Rake & Leave the Leaves for a Healthier, Greener Yard" by Derek Markham updated 8-30-24; Xerces Soc. "Leave the Leaves!," Oct. 5, 2024; National Wildlife Federation "Life in the Litter," by Emma Johnson 12-1-2019

Plant of the Month



“‘White Cloud’ is a cultivar of the native grass *Muhlenbergia capillaris*. White Cloud Muhly Grass* produces beautiful, moonlight white, billowing seed heads and fine-textured, blue-green foliage. It has a more upright shape, grows a bit taller, and blooms shortly after Pink Muhly Grass. Its airy, ivory blooms embellish and soften the landscape, and rival the breathtaking look that Pink Muhly is famous for achieving.” Plant in full sun to light shade in well-draining soil of average fertility. It is drought tolerant, undemanding, and elegant. A sweep of this grass is spectacular, particularly in front of evergreen shrubs and/or trees. Groups of three (or even a single plant) scattered through a perennials or mixed planting bed raises it to a new level, especially when next to brilliant salvias.

SOME OTHER PLANTS IN BLOOM THIS MONTH – Asterisk indicates native (*)

Note that bloom times vary, depending on climatic and meteorological conditions, and many plants bloom several months in a row (and sometimes rebloom). *Source: JCRA Showtimes for November and Debbie Roos, Chatham Co. Agriculture Extension Agent*

Abelia	Aster *
Achillea ‘Paprika’	Strawberry tree
Asian aster	Florida Chocolate Daisy *
Camellia	Bomarea
Glossy Chimnanthes	Chrysanthemum
Crinum *some	Crocus
Cyclamen	Dahlia *some
Pineapple lily	Japanese fatsia
Parrot beak gladiolus	Hibiscus *some
Redwing	Impatiens omeiana
Reblooming iris	Mahonia
Tea Olive	Pink Muhly Grass *
Passion flower*	Rose

Photo credit, quoted text: Hoffman Nursery, Rougemont, NC

List sources: JCRA Photo Collection and Pollinator Paradise, Chatham Mills, NC

Photos of some plants in bloom this month – Red asterisk indicates native plant (*)



Dahlia



Aster 'Jindai'



Aster 'Raydon's Favorite'*



Hearts A-Bustin'*
(Seeds)



Camellia



Crinum lily



Crocus



Maryland golden aster *



Climbing aster *



Heath aster *



Japanese fatsia



Yellow Crownbeard *



Salvia 'Lipstick' *



Salvia 'Teresa' *



Salvia 'Red Neck Girl'*

Photo credits: **JCRA Photo Collection:** Hearts Bustin, Dahlia, Camellia, Crinum lily, Crocus, Japanese fatsia, **Debbie Roos**, Chatham Co. Agriculture Extension agent: Aster 'Raydon's Favorite', Maryland Golden Aster, Climbing Aster, Heath Aster, Yellow Crownbeard **Plant Delights Nursery** www.plantdelights.com: Salvias (last 3 photos) **M. Finkel:** Aster 'Jindai'