

# GGG

## *Granville Gardeners Gazette*

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

[www.thegranvillegardeners.org](http://www.thegranvillegardeners.org)

August 2025, Volume XV, No. VIII



### **How to Make Captivating Container Combinations with Native Plants**

By Rachel Nelms, Rachel's Native Plants

Monday, August 25, 2025 at 7 p.m., Granville County Expo Center, 4185 U.S. Hwy 15 S, Oxford, NC

#### **About the Program**

Rachel will tell us how to combine native plants in containers for your deck, patio, front steps – anywhere you want color and butterflies. What size container should I use? How can I tell which plants to put in what size containers so they don't overcrowd and become rootbound too quickly? How often should I water? Should the containers go in sun or shade? Where can I get plants and what size should I start with? Get answers to these and many other questions – you will be delighted at the many choices available as you plant with natives! Note: A couple of the containers in the photos combine non-natives.

#### **About the Speaker**

Rachel Nelms opened Rachel's Native Plants in Pittsboro after her young children were all in school. She had worked at Cure Nursery, a local grower of native plants, who paid her in plants and mentored her in the world of natives. Cure Nursery was closing for retirement, and Rachel was encouraged to open a native nursery at The Plant in Pittsboro. She opened in 2023 and has built a beautiful and thriving nursery.

By Marty Finkel and Kat Ravenel

Photos: Claire Jones, The Garden Diaries <https://thegardendiaries.blog/>

## President's Notes for August

After weeks of what seemed like rain every day, we jumped into a very hot and dry period. My plants are not happy! Well, I'm not either when I'm working outside -- and I grew up in the South.

One of my favorite flowering shrubs in the garden are my Blue Bells (Salvia). Not so much because of the small flower – which is nice. But because of their visitors. At any one time during the flowering, I can count 4 to 5 different kinds of bees. It is always interesting to watch them at work as they go from flower to flower. This month brought a new visitor – the hummingbirds. They come back each year about this time.

Next month we will begin working on the 2026 Expo. If this is something you have time and interest in, please let us know. This funds everything we are able to do.

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## Member Marketplace

**Name: Joyce Cifers - Dalton Mill Nursery**

**Location: 2566 Dalton Mill Rd; Bullock, NC 27507**

**Phone: 919-482-9883**

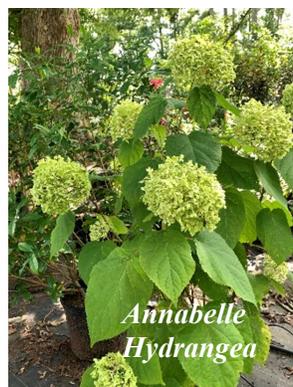
We are having a break from the heat at the moment – hope it will last. In any case, it's cool enough to work in the garden! And as long as you can keep it watered, many plants will do fine in the heat. If watering is difficult, keep these plants in mind for your fall planting when they will be able to take their time acclimating to your garden over the winter months. (They will still need water in a long dry spell.)



Are you looking for edibles? We have Mediterranean bay tree (for bay leaves), Chicago hardy fig, Blackberry (thornless), 3 varieties of Blueberry (Tifblue, Powder Blue, and Premier), Elderberry, and Raspberries. In addition to the plants, we sell our pesticide-free blueberries by the quart – we pick or you pick. These should be coming in for another week or so.



Heuchera 'Palace Purple,' American fringetree (you really should look all of these up on the Extension Toolbox: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>!), American beautyberry (growing berries now that will be brilliant pink-purple in the fall against golden leaves!), and Fothergilla 'Mt. Airy' (compact, deer resistant, bottle-brush flowers in spring and beautiful red, yellow, or purple fall color) are a few the native plants we offer. And we also have some beautiful non-native ornamentals like Annabelle Hydrangea, Hydrangea 'Kyushu,' Zebra Grass to brighten up your garden.



Please call to schedule a time to come by:  
919-482-9883.

## JCRA Plants for Auction for August 2025

The anticipation of what Sophia and Rob choose for us is almost like getting a present to unwrap, and this month's plants are truly lust-worthy.



### **Red Hibiscus, Scarlet Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)**

This huge, late-summer blooming native needs room to show off its 6 to 8' mature height and 2 – 3' spread. It likes average, medium to wet soil in full sun to part shade and will thrive beside ponds or in boggy areas. Plants may become leggy and flower less in too much shade. Tolerates summer heat and humidity, but soil should be kept moist throughout the growing season. It's native to marshes and swamps in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida and is sometimes called swamp hibiscus. The 6" red flowers bloom on new growth in late

summer to early fall. They attract hummingbirds, butterflies, other pollinators, and are a wildlife food source. The hemp-like leaves are large and bold. After the plant dies back, cut to 12 or 24" so native bees can use the hollow stems for nesting. Leave the stems standing until they disintegrate on their own.



### **Texas Shooting Star (*Echeandea texensis*)**

Another striking native! From a corm that produces a rosette of narrow, soft pale green, grass-like leaves in the spring, 5' tall branched spikes arise with small, star-like mustard yellow flowers in September and October in NC (Plant Delights Nursery). In its native Rio Grande Valley, the Texas Native Plant Society says it grows 1 to 3' tall in sun to part shade in sand, loam, clay, rocky, dry soil and has yellow to orange flowers from April to November. It can withstand seasonally wet conditions and seasonally dry conditions. According to the PDN description, it grows much taller here.



### **Clematis 'Rain Dance' (*Clematis* 'Rain Dance')**

This is a bush, not a vine, but benefits from support for its 42" x 30" mounding size. The color of the flowers is astonishing – a vibrant indigo blue. Another thing that makes this such a superb plant is that the flowers are as large as those on some vine clematis: 2.5 to 3", which is a size breakthrough. Support can be staking, a garden obelisk, or its plant neighbors (think shrub). Plant in full sun to part shade; needs at least 6 hours of sunlight to bloom well. The base and roots of clematis must be completely shaded, so you may need to plant something in front that will keep its rootball cool and shaded. It's important to plant it 3" deeper than it was in the pot. Bury the first set of entire leaves to encourage the production of strong shoots from below soil level and to discourage

clematis wilt. Also, a thick layer of mulch will help. It thrives in well-draining soil rich in organic matter. Water regularly, especially in dry periods. This is a type 3 clematis, which means it blooms on new wood, so prune back hard in early spring to about 6 inches from the ground.



**Japanese maple ‘Manyo no sato’** (*Acer palmatum* Manyo no sato)  
 This tree’s very unusual variegation is so striking that it gets one’s attention immediately. It leafs out in the early spring as a darker purple red with chartreuse variegation. The purple red color fades to a mauve red, then to a green in full sun during the summer. In the autumn the leaves turn bright orange to red. It may reach 8 ft tall by 6 ft wide in 10 years. 'Manyo no sato' means "The Village of 1,000 Leaves". Choose a site in full sun or morning sun with light shade in the afternoon. Make sure the soil drains well, for wet feet

will kill Japanese maples. The soil line when planted should be the same as when it was in the pot, or slightly higher. If your plant was in a greenhouse, acclimate it to more sun before planting.



June

July

August

**‘Sweet Starlight’ Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Sweet Starlight’)

You really need this versatile 4’ tall x 3.5’ wide compact hydrangea. It blooms in late spring through summer on strong stems that won’t flop, and it changes from pure white to medium pink through the summer. Plant in morning sun with afternoon filtered shade in any moist but well-drained soil of average fertility. Keep well-watered until roots are established, then water through dry spells. The flowers are produced from buds that are

formed on new wood (the current season’s growth), so don’t prune in late spring or summer when they’re about to bloom.

By Marty Finkel

Photos: Hibiscus – NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox, Hope Duckworth CC BY 4.0; Texas Shooting Star – Plant Delights Nursery [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com); Clematis – Walters Gardens; Japanese Maple -- MrMaple.com, used with permission; Hydrangea – Wilson Brothers Nursery

## Remembrance for Isabel Talton

We lost a garden club member, Isabel Talton, on Monday, June 23, 2025. According to her obituary in the Oxford Public Ledger, she passed away peacefully at Transition Hospice Care in Raleigh, NC.

I met Isabel when she attended a seed propagation and transplanting workshop I gave at the Senior Center. I told the participants about the Granville Gardeners, and Isabel joined in 2014. She attended meetings as her health would allow but soon was not able to continue.

Isabel didn’t have a computer, so I had the newsletter printed and sent to her by U.S. mail. For several years, we had three members to whom I sent it. She loved reading the Granville Gardeners Gazette and told me she read every issue cover to cover. She paid dues every year even though she couldn’t attend meetings, and she made a contribution to help defray the mailing cost.

Isabel loved gardening even though she wasn’t able to tend a garden. For a time, she had tomatoes in containers on her deck. I remember her with fondness and am glad she enjoyed the GG Gazette for so many years.

By Marty Finkel

## August Happenings

**August 6. (Wed.) JCRA Midweek Program: Protecting Pollinators While Managing Pests.** 3-4pm. JC Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Rd., Raleigh. In this online zoom presentation, Mark Weathington, Arboretum Director, “will walk us through practical, ecologically responsible ways to protect your garden. We’ll explore cultural strategies for keeping plants healthy and resilient—like managing nutrition, reducing stress, and selecting the right plant combinations—as well as how to intervene thoughtfully when pests do show up. From companion planting to targeted treatments, you’ll learn how to manage problems without compromising the pollinators that help your garden thrive.” Free. Register here: [JCRA Midweek Program](#)

**August 7. (Thurs.) Plant and Insect ID Workshop using iNaturalist on your Smartphone.** 6:00-7:00pm. Berea Branch Library, 1211 US-158, Oxford. This will be a workshop on setting up and using the free iNaturalist app on your phone. (On iPhones, the app is called iNaturalist Classic. The app for android phones is iNaturalist.) There will be practice afterwards in the Berea Library Pollinator Garden. Free. To register, call 919-693-1231. Space is limited. If you are interested in helping, contact Kat.

**August 7. (Thurs.) Planting Design for Wildlife: A Landscape Architect’s Guide to Supporting Wildlife Through Intentional Planting.** 7:00-8:30pm. Online. “Join NCWF South Wake Conservationists Chapter for a webinar exploring how intentional planting design can support wildlife while meeting human needs. Presented by registered landscape architect Sara Donohoe, participants will learn how thoughtful plant selection and spatial organization can provide critical resources for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife while enhancing the visual appeal and usability of a space.” Free, but donations are accepted. For more info and to register: [Planting Design for Wildlife](#)

**August 9. (Sat.) Green Hill Hostas “Lucky 13 Sale”.** 9am-4pm. Green Hill Hostas, 66 Cody’s Way, Franklinton. “All hostas ready to sell for \$13, even the \$50 dollar ones.” For more info: 919-309-0649.

**August 11. (Mon.) Plant and Insect ID Workshop using iNaturalist on your Smartphone.** 9:30-10:30am. South Granville County Senior Center, 114 Douglas Dr., Creedmoor. This will be a workshop on setting up and using the free iNaturalist app on your phone. (On iPhones, the app is called iNaturalist Classic. The app for android phones is iNaturalist.) There will be practice afterwards in the Creedmoor Community Center Pollinator Garden. Free. To register, call 919-528-0848. Space is limited. If you are interested in helping, contact Kat.

**August 14. (Thurs.) Knowledge is Pollinator Power: A Census Pep-Rally!** 1-3pm. Online webinar from NC Cooperative Extension to prepare you to participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census (taking place on Aug. 22 and 23). Register here: [Knowledge is Pollinator Power](#).

FREE WEBINAR WITH POLLINATOR EXPERTS

LEARN ABOUT PLANTS, RESEARCH AND INSECT IDENTIFICATION

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:  
Dr. Nick Tew talking about nectar in flowers and more!

Open to ANYONE!

REGISTER HERE:  
<https://go.ncsu.edu/gsepcinnckppwebinar2025>

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATOR

**August 22 & 23. (Fri. & Sat.) Great Southeast Pollinator Census.** At a plant near you! The Pollinator Census was begun by the Cooperative Extension Service of Georgia and has grown to include five states – Ga., SC, NC, Fla., and Ala. On two days in August, people are encouraged to participate by counting insects (and categorizing them into one of eight categories) for 15 minutes. Counting can be done anywhere you see pollinators on plants.

To prepare, it is recommended to attend the webinar on Aug. 14 (see above), or one of the iNaturalist workshops (see above for Aug. 7 and Aug. 11). There is also a recorded webinar at [Pollinator ID Webinar](#). Several public gardens are available for those who have no flowers at home:

**Vance County Farmers Market Pollinator Garden**, 210 Southpark Dr., Henderson – Open dawn to dusk. Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Vance & Warren Counties will be at the garden to help with the Census both [Friday and Saturday \(Aug. 22&23\) from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.](#)

**Granville County History Museum**, 1 Museum Lane, Oxford – Open dawn to dusk. Volunteers will be there to help [Fri. & Sat. \(Aug. 22&23\) from 8 to 10 am.](#) (This is when the garden has some shade. We have one volunteer and need at least two to be there together. Contact Kat if you would like to help.)

**Berea Branch Library Pollinator Garden**, 1211 US-158, Oxford – Dawn to dusk. We have one volunteer for Saturday, Aug. 23. Again, we need at least two volunteers. Hours are open on the Friday and Saturday, so let Kat know when you are available.

**Creedmoor Community Center Pollinator Garden**, 114 Douglas Dr., Creedmoor – open dawn to dusk. Looking for pairs of volunteers on Friday and Saturday of the Census.

**Person County Library Pollinator Garden**, 319 S. Main St., Roxboro – Open during regular library hours only. Granville-Person Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will be there [Friday, August 22, from 9-11 am.](#)

Find more general Census information, including tally sheets and the website for submitting counts, here: <https://gsepc.org/>. (Volunteers will be provided with tally sheets to give to participants.)

**August 28. (Thurs.) Hybrid Lunchbox Talk: Designing for the Experience – Gardening from the Perspective of an Artist.** 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. Preston Montague, landscape architect and artist, shares key steps from his artistic process that help improve the narrative and emotional impact in his garden designs. You may attend in-person, or online. Free. For more information and to register: [Preston Montague: Designing for the Experience](#)

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**September 11 (Thurs.) Hybrid Lunchbox Talk: From Soil to Sovereignty.** 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. Presented by Ashlie Thomas, Home Gardening Advocate. Can a garden change how we understand health and wellness? This talk explores the dynamic relationship between soil health, human behavior, and food sovereignty rooted in what science and experience can teach us about staying well through the simple act of growing food. You may attend in-person, or online. Free. For more information and to register: [Ashlie Thomas: From Soil to Sovereignty](#)

**September 19 (Fri.) Landscaping for Pollinators and Other Wildlife & Native Plant Sale.** 9am – 4pm. Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, Chatham County Agricultural Extension Agent Debbie Roos will share lessons learned during her 17 years of experience designing and managing the popular [Pollinator Paradise Demonstration Garden](#) 85% of which is native to NC. Debbie will talk about design principles but focus on the practical such as winning plant combinations and the best pollinator plants for each season. Participants will be given the tools to create a basic pollinator garden design that can be planted at their farm or home landscape. Workshop concludes with a native plant sale by four native plant nurseries. \$65. Registration deadline is Sept. 10: [Pollinator Workshop](#)

**September 25 (Thurs.) Virtual Lunchbox Talk: Living with, and the Natural History of, Bumblebees.** 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. John Whittlesey, Retired nurseryman, garden designer and author, will weave a discussion of bumblebees' life history along with anecdotes of "living with bumble bees," ending the talk with plants to plant if you too would like to invite bumble bees to live in your garden. This is an online Zoom webinar. Free, but registration is required: [John Whittlesey: Bumblebees](#)

### **ONGOING:**

**Saturdays. Oxford Farmers Market.** 7am-12pm every Saturday from May 3 until Oct. 25. Corner of McClanahan and Lanier Streets in Oxford, across from the police station. Our own Judy M., Danny and Cindy D., and Vickey T., have booths at the market. More info: [Old Oxford Farmers Market](#)

**Saturdays. Oxford Armory Farmers Market.** 9am-1pm. Oxford Armory (outside), 105 W. Spring Street, Oxford. A partnership between the City of Oxford, N.C. Cooperative Extension of Granville County, and the Oxford Armory Farmers' Market Board, the Armory Market will be open every Saturday until Oct. 25. For more info: [Armory Farmers' Market](#).

**Ripe for Revival Mobile Market.** Now in 2 locations in Granville County!

**Tuesdays, 12-1:30pm.** Gazebo Park, 416 Central Ave., Butner.

**Tuesdays, 3-4:30pm.** Outside Tobacco Wood Brewing Co., 17 Wall St., Oxford.

"Fresh and local produce, protein, dairy, and eggs can be found on the mobile market." Follow on social media, or sign up for weekly newsletter, to receive the weekly produce list. For more info: [Ripe for Revival Facebook Page](#), [Ripe for Revival Instagram Account](#), [info@ripeforrevival.com](mailto:info@ripeforrevival.com)

**From Farm to Fridge.** The Granville County Library System (GCLS) has partnered with local farms, farmers, organizations, groups, and food banks to address food insecurity in Granville County... At any time, refrigerators located at the South, Stovall and Thornton branch libraries and a food pantry located at the Berea Branch can be stocked with healthy choices of fruits, vegetables, and non-perishable food items—all "FREE" to anyone who has a need. More info: [Farm to Fridge](#), or call the library branches at Berea: 919-693-1231, So. Granville: 919-528-1752, Stovall: 919- 693-5722, or Thornton: 919-693-1121.

**Seed Library.** The Granville County Library System (GCLS) offer free seeds through our seed library program. Berea, South and Thornton branches feature flowers, vegetables, and herb seeds for improved access to "healthy food." For info: [Granville County Seed Library](#) or contact the library branches at Berea: 919-693-1231, South Granville: 919-528-1752, or Thornton: 919-693-1121.

**March to November, Second Saturday of the month. NCBG Tour.** 10am-12pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. "From March to November, join our skilled volunteer Garden Guides on the second Saturday of the month for a guided tour of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Each month offers a glimpse into what's happening in our unique native plant gardens – from spring wildflowers to fall color – and what makes the NCBG one of the premier conservation gardens in the US. Tours are one (1) hour and space is limited!" \$6 (\$5 Members). For more info and to register (limited space), go here: [Second Saturday NCBG Tour](#)

Compiled by Kat Ravenel

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*When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden.*

\_\_\_\_ Minnie Aumonier

## To Do in August

- Plant seeds of lettuce, turnips, kale, spinach, mustard, and snap beans for a fall garden, plus transplants of cabbage, broccoli, and collards
- Apply pre-emergence herbicide the **third week** in August to help control the weeds that always show up in late winter/early spring:
  - chickweed, mulberry weed, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), wild garlic and onions, several thistles, wild mustard, shepherd's purse, Carolina geranium, henbit, black medic, and many more.Here's a link covering the subject, including names of pre-emergence herbicides: [Fall Pre-emergence](#)  
Contact our horticulture extension agent, Johnny Coley for more information about using pre-emergence herbicides.
- Container plants are, by definition, under stress because the roots are confined. Keep them watered to reduce some of the stress.
- Large trees require between 50 and 200 gallons of water/day in the summer, so most herbaceous plants under these trees will suffer if not watered (from Plants Delights Newsletter).
- Cut annuals back by half for bushier plants and more flowers.
- Strawberry and blueberry plants set buds in the fall, so fertilize now with a complete fertilizer. If you get any on the leaves, wash it off.
- Hot, dry weather favors spider mites – control with insecticidal soap.
- Keep an area of soil moist for butterflies, or set out watermelon rinds so they can drink the juice.
- Allow bell and jalapeno peppers to turn red for extra flavor & higher beta carotene content.
- Divide irises and daylilies this month.
- Check garden centers for fall-blooming bulbs to add to your garden.
- The week of September 1st is the recommended time to spray for peach tree borers. **Get prepared now:** Spray the trunk and major branches, paying particular attention to ground level. Follow label instructions. Note some products will recommend multiple applications. Peachtree borers may also attack apricot, cherry, nectarine, and plum trees. For more information on peachtree borers see: [peachtree-borer](#)
- Clean up spent crops in the garden, and if you are considering a fall garden, read about it on the Extension Gardener website: [vegetable gardening](#). Also, some seed sources have growing guides and other information on their web sites.
- If you are interested in extending your vegetable gardening season past the first frost, see: <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2020-04-07-starting-garden-season-extension>, or Jabbour, Niki. *The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener*. North Adams, MA.: Storey Publishing, 2011. For a more comprehensive coverage of season extension with a resource list, see: <http://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/growingsmallfarms-seasonextension/>.
- Note that NC Cooperative Extension has an Organic Unit with much information online. Start here: <https://newcropsorganics.ces.ncsu.edu/organics/>

Compiled by Marty Finkel

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*But always, to her, red and green cabbages were to be jade and burgundy, chrysoprase and porphyry.  
Life has no weapons against a woman like that.*

\_\_\_\_ Edna Ferber

## Plant of the Month

### Red Hibiscus, Scarlet Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)



This southeastern U.S. native grows wild in marshes and swamps in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, thus its other common name, swamp hibiscus. It is striking when all of its 6 to 8' height is full of red flowers up to 6 inches wide in late summer to early fall. Plant in average, medium to wet soil in full sun to part shade -- it will thrive beside ponds or in boggy areas. Plants may become leggy and flower less in too much shade. Tolerates summer heat and humidity, but soil should be kept moist throughout the growing season. The flowers bloom on new growth and attract hummingbirds, butterflies, other pollinators and are a wildlife food source. The hemp-like leaves are large and bold. After the plant dies back, cut to 12 or 24" so native bees can use the hollow stems for nesting. Leave the stems standing until they disintegrate on their own. It has some susceptibility to blight, canker, rust, leaf spots, aphids, scale, whiteflies, and Japanese beetle. Taller plants may need staking. **This is one of the JCRA auction plants at this month's meeting.**

#### Also in Bloom this Month \* denotes native plant

Note that bloom times vary, depending on climatic and meteorological conditions, and many plants bloom several months in a row (and sometimes rebloom).

Abelia	Sweetshrub ( <i>Calycanthus</i> )*	Deutzia
Hibiscus*(some species)	Trumpet vine*	Coneflower*
Chinese buttonbush	Willow-leaved jessamine	Rudbeckia*
Allium*(some species)	Sea oats*	Rattlesnake master*
Peruvian lily	Desert willow	Pineapple lily
Amaryllis	Clematis*(some species)	Gaillardia*
Big bluestem*	Summersweet ( <i>Clethra</i> )*	Gardenia
Milkweed*(some species)	Weeping Kousa dogwood	Rain lily*(some species)
Dutchman's pipe*	Pampas grass	Heliotrope
Asparagus fern	Crinum lily*(some species)	Day lily
Blackberry lily	Hardy ginger lily	Redwing
Crossvine*	Dahlia	Indigo
Butterfly bush	Datura	

**Some Other Plants in Bloom this Month (\* indicates native)**



Blue Vervain \*



Goldenrod 'Solar Cascade' \*



Stokes' Aster \*



Loomis' Mountain mint \*



Arizona milkweed \*



Goblet Flower



'Orion' Compact Anise\*



Agastache 'Crazy Fortune' \*



Wright's Texas Firecracker \*



Black Ace Turtlehead \*



Hardy Begonia



Abutilon 'Twister'



Swamp milkweed \*



Canna 'Red Futurity'

Compiled by Marty Finkel Photo credits: Top row by Debbie Roos, Chatham Co. Agriculture Extension Agent. JCRA Aug. Showtimes: Arizona Milkweed, Goblet Flower, Anise. Plant Delights Nursery: Abutilon, Agastache, Firecracker, Turtlehead, Begonia, Canna. NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox : Swamp milkweed, Charlotte Glen CC BY-NC-SA 4.0