

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting education and recreation through gardening activities

Oxford, North Carolina

www.thegranvillegardeners.org

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2026 GRANVILLE GARDENER'S CLUB OFFICERS

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Treasurer: Mark Arnott

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Lynn Duncan, Kaydee Karns, Linda Niles,
Robin Word

Past President: David Quinn



Granville Gardeners Gazette is a monthly newsletter. Deadline for submissions is the 19th of each month.

Editor: Erma Hudgins

Submission requests may be sent to erma.hudgins@gmail.com.

Our February Program. . . .

Monday, 2/23/26 at 7:00 pm at the Granville County Expo Center

EVERGREEN GROUNDCOVERS by Evan Villani

Evan Villani from the JC Raulston Arboretum will be sharing with us some of his favorite evergreen groundcovers. Why should we consider planting evergreen groundcovers? Because they do it all – retain soil moisture, keep pesky weeds from seeding in, and prevent erosion in tough spots. When every inch of your garden has been filled and covered with shade, an evergreen groundcover will make the most of those winter months when the trees shed their leaves. If you are planting in an area with direct sun, there are some that take on fantastic color and variegation, which will be beautiful to see during the winter months when most everything else is blah.

Evan will walk us through how to pick the perfect ones for our yards depending on our individual needs! He will have details on about a dozen specific species and will explain what conditions and maintenance they each thrive in.

Evan Villani is a recent graduate of NC State University. He has enjoyed landscaping since high school and loves plants. While in college, one of his internships was at the JC Raulston Arboretum and he never left. After graduating, he was hired by JCRA full-time as a new gardener and he is doing what he loves every day. Evan is excited to share this information with us. His favorite activities are planting, pruning, and just maybe ripping out dead plants.

What a great opportunity for the club to learn more about groundcovers! The presentation will be held on Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Granville County Expo Center. See you there!



Sweet Box

by NC Extension Gardener
Plant Toolbox Jim Robbins



Carex Feather Falls by

Plant Delights Nursery
www.plantdelights.com



Wild Ginger

Photo by Marty Finkel

To-Do List For February

- If you didn't get your garden assessment done last month:
 - ♦ Continue planning where you want to put new beds.
 - ♦ Put a stake in plants that you want to take out or relocate.
 - ♦ Look around for shrubs and trees that need thinning and/or pruning. Broken limbs and limbs that cross and rub against each other should come off.
 - ♦ Plan color combinations of annuals and perennials that look great with the colors of your shrubs.
 - ♦ On nice days this month, consider making raised beds for growing vegetables (many good plans can be found on the Internet) and filling those beds with soil.
 - ♦ Consider making a cold frame to extend the season before and after main-season gardening.
- Direct seed snap and snow peas, beets, carrots, lettuce, onions (seed, sets, and plants), radishes, Irish potatoes, and spinach this month.
- Start broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower seeds early this month for transplanting in late March.
- Plant strawberries.
- Plant asparagus crowns now through early March.
- If you're making a new bed, till the whole bed. Don't only dig individual holes. Obtain a soil test and till all the recommended amendments in. Kill the weed seeds (check with your county extension agent) and life will be easier. Don't work the soil if it is too wet; get a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it stays in a lump after you open your hand, it's too wet. It should crumble through your fingers.
- To get the central NC planting calendar for annual vegetables, fruits, and herbs from the Extension service – search online for “AG-756 NCSU (Central NC Planting Calendar). Download the chart and keep it handy.
- If you want to use a pre-emergent herbicide for control of summer weeds (spurge, mulberry weed, oxalis, Japanese stilt grass and others, please read the label and apply properly), it should be broadcast this month.
- Prune fruit trees later this month and/or early March as they begin to grow. Blueberries can be pruned now through early March.
- Cut back butterfly bush, abelia, rose of Sharon, hibiscus, and beautyberry bushes. Bush and tea roses can be pruned now. Find excellent brochures on late winter pruning online and at the Extension Centers.
- If you have hardy lantana, wait until you see new growth appearing before cutting back.
- Cut back ornamental grasses anytime this month. Divide large clumps & replant. Mow liriop and mondo and divide if needed.
- Plant bare-root roses.
- Clean up camellia blooms.
- Lawns: Control cool season weeds like chickweed, hairy bittercress, henbit. Treat by removal or post-emergent herbicide (above 40 degrees). Pre-emergent crabgrass herbicide can be used about the time the forsythia blooms. Fertilize cool-season grasses with 1 lb. 30% slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 sq. feet (or follow soil sample instructions if you had one done).
- Spray fruit and other trees and shrubs with horticultural oil when temperature is 40 degrees or higher for a 24-hour period to control scale, mites, and aphids and suffocate their eggs. It is one of the safest controls available. Always follow the label for mixing and spraying instructions. Lime sulfur can be combined with the oil to spray dormant trees/shrubs; if leaves are present, the combination spray will burn them.

Club Calendar

February 23, 2026

Monthly Club Meeting at the Granville County Expo Center in Oxford at 7:00 PM

Presentation: *Evergreen Groundcovers* by Evan Villani from JCRA (see page 1 for more info).

March 23, 2026

Monthly Club Meeting at Oxford Methodist Church at 7:00 PM

Presentation: *The Tomato Revolution* by Frank Hyman

April 18, 2026

Granville Gardeners Expo
Club sponsored fundraising event

We could use help recruiting the following:

- Businesses who would be interested in renting a booth
- Businesses that would be interested in sponsoring the event
- Volunteers (ages 13 and up)

Anyone interested can find info on our website:

<https://thegranvillegardeners.org/>

look under "Granville Gardeners Expo Information."

You can pick up business cards or flyers about the event at the club meetings.

April 27, 2026

Monthly Club Meeting at the Granville County Expo Center in Oxford at 7:00 PM.

We will have a plant auction that includes plants from the JCRA (JC Raulston Arboretum). A speaker from the arboretum will present the details and answer questions about the plants. All the

proceeds from the sale of these plants will be used for our scholarship to NC State.

May 25, 2026

Monthly Club Meeting at the Oxford Methodist Church at 7:00 PM.

Covered Dish Social

June 22, 2026

Monthly Club Meeting at the Granville County Expo Center in Oxford at 7:00 PM.

Presentation: *In Search of Great Native Perennials for NC Gardeners* by Tony Avent from Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanical Garden in Raleigh.



The flyer features a central logo with a stylized 'G' containing a green plant. Below the logo, the text reads: "GRANVILLE GARDENERS EXPO HOME - GARDEN - DECOR". The event details are: "SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 9AM-3PM GRANVILLE EXPO CENTER OXFORD, NC". It lists activities: "FREE ENTRY & PARKING PLANTS - KIDS ACTIVITIES - EDUCATION FOOD - FUN - RAFFLE - HOME & LAWN HOMESTEADING - JAM & HONEY SHOPPING & NETWORKING". A circular seal on the left says "GROWING FROM OUR ROOTS 1776 2026 GRANVILLE GARDENERS EXPO CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY". Text on the right says "BRING A WAGON FOR YOUR TREASURES & PARK AT THE TOBACCO WAREHOUSE NEXT DOOR." and "Check out Facebook for updates!". At the bottom, it says "VENDORS & SPONSORS WANTED! APPLICATIONS & PAYMENTS ARE ONLY ON EVENTENY. FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR THEGRANVILLEGARDENERS.ORG". Two QR codes are present, one with the text "Shop our plant sale online!".

Of Note....

Do you have a gardening question that you would like to ask an expert?



Well, you are in luck! Write your question on a piece of paper and bring it with you to our monthly meetings. There will be a new drop box labeled "ASK MARTY" in the back of the room. Our resident expert, Marty Finkle, will provide answers and they will be featured in the following Granville Gardener Gazette.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

If you haven't already, please take the time to renew your **Granville Gardener's club membership for 2026!**

You can pay at the next meeting or go online at thegranvillegardeners.org to print your application and pay. Please bring completed form to the next meeting.

**Would you like to be more involved in the Granville Gardener's Club?
Would you like more opportunities to network with other gardeners?**

Well then, join a committee!

Below is a list of a number of opportunities! Let a board member know if you are interested in any of the following:

- ◆ Activities & Projects Committee
- ◆ Awards Committee
- ◆ Expo Committee
- ◆ Finance/Audit Committee
- ◆ Grants Committee
- ◆ Hospitality Committee
- ◆ Membership Committee
- ◆ Newsletter Committee
- ◆ Nominating Committee
- ◆ Program Committee
- ◆ Publicity Committee
- ◆ Scholarship Committee