

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

President: Bob Holtaway

Vice President: Doreen Arnott

Secretary: Jacalyn Thomas

Treasurer: Mark Arnott

Board members: Liz Carr, Joyce Cifers, Lynn Duncan, Kaydee Karns, Linda Niles, Robin Word

Past President: David Quinn



Our April Program.....

Monday, April 27th at 7:00 pm at the Granville County Expo Center



JCRA PRESENTATION AND PLANT AUCTION!

This opportunity only comes twice a year!

Greg Paige, Senior Gardener at JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh will provide a *short* presentation about the JCRA - its gardens, education and breeding programs. You will want to hear all about it!

The plants for the auction are mostly provided by the JCRA. Greg will bring about 12 plants total. The silent auction will be split into two small auctions - at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of the meeting. Greg will present the details and answer questions about each plant being auctioned.

All proceeds from the sale of these plants will be used for our scholarship program with NC State so please plan to support our efforts.

We will also have some fun time for mingling and visiting with each other. Come a little early to check out the plants ahead of time and grab some snacks!

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.

Granville Gardener's Expo

HOME - GARDEN - DECOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
9 AM - 3 PM

GRANVILLE EXPO CENTER, OXFORD, NC
** Bring a wagon for your purchases! **



Free entry, parking at tobacco warehouse next door

**This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and supports our scholarship program with NC State University.*



WHAT YOU'LL FIND:

*Plants
Kids Activities
Education
Food & Drinks
Raffle
Home & Lawn
Homesteading
Jam & honey
Shopping
Fun & Networking*

*Also, check our website
(thegranvillegardeners.org)
for online sales*

HELP!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

- *Thursday, April 16th - Plant sale set up - 9:00 am - noon
- *Friday, April 17th - Plant sale and event set up, 8:00 am - noon
- *Saturday, April 18th - Volunteers for event 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS AT THE EXPO:

- *Bottles of water (16 ounce or less)
- *Paper lunch bags
- *Jars of peanut butter (40 jars needed)
- *Small rubber bands
- *Nuts
- *Coffee filters
- *Ziplock bags (sandwich size)
- *Paper towel or Toilet paper tubes

Also, does anyone have any ***ladies nylons*** to donate?

We will be making Grass Seed Pals where we will be stuffing soil and seeds into the nylons.

Please contact Doreen Arnott if you can volunteer and/or donate.
919-559-5971 or email at doreen.arnott@gmail.com.



- RESIST the temptation to work the soil when it is wet. Here's the test from *The Old Farmer's almanac*: "Grab a handful of your garden soil. If you can form it into a ball, the soil is too wet for planting. (Chances are the seeds will rot.) If it crumbles through your fingers, it's ready for planting."
- "Warm weather" vegetables (green beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, melons, squash, and tomatoes) can be planted after the average last frost date in mid-April. Wait until May for "hot weather" vegetables (lima beans, eggplant, okra, southern peas, peppers, and sweet potatoes.) See [Home Vegetable Gardening AG-06](#) for fertilizer and pest control recommendations (also has a super-helpful chart on when to plant what vegetables, seed and/or transplants). They are available at the Agricultural Extension Centers and online.
- Once the ground has warmed, plant summer annual seeds.
- April is the best time to plant warm season grasses – Bermuda, centipede, zoysia, & Saint Augustine
- Prune azaleas after flowering.
- Spray roses every 7 -10 days with a fungicide until frost, beginning with the onset of new growth.
- Control aphids on roses and other plants with insecticidal soap.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to reduce spring-germinating weed seeds.
- If you didn't get your perennials planted last fall, plant now so they can become established before hot weather.
- Mulch well to prepare for summer heat and to prevent weeds.
- Experiment with watering devices to conserve water: soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems with timers will help deliver water to plants efficiently.
- Maintain your spray program for apples, nectarines, peaches, and plums. Follow label instructions and observe waiting times before harvest.
- Apples, nectarines, peaches, and pears need to be thinned to produce the best crop of full-size fruit. Fruit should be thinned by the time they are nickel size so that they are spread 4-8" apart along the branches.
- If you have blueberries, cherries, or strawberries, have bird netting ready unless you want to share your crop. If you are thinking of starting or expanding small fruit plantings, it is getting late for bareroot plants, but local retailers have many container-grown plants. Before buying, check that the varieties are appropriate for this area. Everbearing and day-neutral strawberries are not recommended because of the summer heat.

Compiled by Marty Finkel

Club Calendar

April 18, 2026

Granville Gardeners Expo

Club sponsored fundraising event

See page 2 for more information

We could use help recruiting the following:

- Businesses that 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 21, 2026

Granville Gardener's Board Meeting at the Richard H. Thornton Library, meeting room located down the hallway to the right from the main entrance.

April 27, 2026

Monthly Club Meeting at the Granville County Expo Center in Oxford at 7:00 pm. See page 1 for more information.

May 19, 2026

Granville Gardener's Board Meeting at the Richard H. Thornton Library, meeting room located down the hallway to the right from the main entrance.

May 25, 2026

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

Covered Dish Social

June 16, 2026

Granville Gardener's Board Meeting at the Richard H. Thornton Library, meeting room located down the hallway to the right from the main entrance.

June 22, 2026

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

FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY!

NATIVE SWAGGER: TURNING HEADS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Free Seminar

Sunday, April 12; 5:30 p.m.

*Andrea DeLong-Amaya, Horticulture Educator,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*

Native plants are resilient ecological powerhouses and anchor us to our botanical heritage, but too often, they're dismissed as messy or weedy. It's time to change the narrative! In this talk, we'll explore how to use native plants to create gardens that are true people-pleasers. From wild to formal designs, lawns to containers, sun to shade, wildlife gardens to water gardens, even edible gardens — you'll see how natives provide habitat while also serving as the basis for stunning landscapes. Whether you're already a native plant champion or just native curious, you'll come away with ideas to elevate your garden and give native plants the starring role they deserve. Go to calendar.unc.edu to register.

If you would like to carpool, please contact Doreen Arnott @ doreen.arnott@gmail.com

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY!



The Great Southeast POLLINATOR COURSE



This is a Zoom webinar that will be held each Tuesday from 3:00 - 4:00 pm, June 16 - July 28th. These sessions will also be recorded. Just \$50.

Go to GSEPC.org for more information. Center for Urban Agriculture, University of Georgia



Q: Are marigolds beneficial to other plants in the garden?

A: In a word, yes, so plant all types for their beauty and benefit. Some of the benefits are:

- Help with controlling root knot nematodes – research from the University of Florida showed that planting certain types of marigolds helped reduce the populations of root knot nematodes in Florida. In summary, it depends on what kind of nematodes are present and which kinds of marigolds help control them.
- In the Better Homes and Gardens magazine, the article “The Best Marigold Companion Plants for a Healthier Garden,” these conclusions were drawn from university research-based articles:
 - ✦ Marigolds repel a variety of pests like beetles and nematodes, protecting crops such as potatoes and carrots.
 - ✦ Companion planting with marigolds attracts pollinators that benefit tomatoes, eggplants, and melons.
 - ✦ Marigolds can deter pests specific to particular plants, such as squash bugs in cucurbits and whiteflies in tomatoes.
- The Institute for Environmental Research and Information article “How Effective are Marigolds as Deer and Rabbit Repellents” reminds us that several factors affect repellency:
 - ✦ If their preferred food is nearby, the hungry animal may disregard the off-putting smell of marigolds and go after what they like best.
 - ✦ Some have a stronger scent. French marigolds have a stronger odor than African (*Tagetes erecta*) so are considered to be more effective.

- ✦ Density: a few marigolds won’t deter deer/ rabbits; instead, planting a dense border around target plants is more likely to give some level of protection.
- ✦ As with other deterrents, animals may become used to the smell of marigolds.

Plant all types of marigolds for their beauty and their ability to help your other plants.

Q: I have three different varieties of daffodils in three different beds and plan to divide and replant in the fall. What will happen if I mix the different varieties together in the same bed? Do they reproduce through seeds or strictly from bulb division? Is there a chance of them cross pollinating?

A: There won’t be deleterious consequences from mixing the varieties in the same bed – the effect will be a very pleasing composition. They reproduce in two ways: from offset bulbs at the base of the bulb -- the flowers will be exact copies (this is cloning). After bloom, the seed pod swells but is empty of seeds; however, occasionally cross pollination will occur if the wind or insects bring new pollen from another flower. In this case, the seedpod will contain one to a few seeds whose flowers will be different. Removing the seedpod (deadheading) allows energy to go into producing next year’s flower rather than making seeds. It takes about 5 years for a daffodil to bloom from seed!

Resource: Daffodil FAQs, the American Daffodil Society daffodilusa.org/daffodil-info/daffodil-faqs/

by Marty Finkel

Of Note....

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



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

Did You Know...

that anyone in the Granville Gardener's Club can attend the board meetings?

Only the Board has voting power, but if you would like to hear about anything coming up, you are free to attend!

The Board meetings are currently being held on the third Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at the Thornton Library but always check the club calendar for any updates.

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