November/December 2012

Environmental Update

Diana M.C. Rashash

Diana MC Rashash, PhD
Area Specialized Agent,
Natural Resources
diana_rashash@ncsu.edu

NCCE-Brunswick Co.
25 Referendum Dr.,
Bldg. N
PO Box 109
Bolivia, NC 28422
(910) 253-2610

http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu

NCCE-Onslow Co.
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540
(910) 455-5873
(910) 455-0977 Fax

http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu

And the rest of the
Southeast District:

http://southeast.ces.ncsu.edu/

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
ACADEMICS • RESEARCH • EXTENSION

Competitions and programs for public, private, & home-school students …

NC Envirothon:

The Envirothon, a hands-on natural resource competition for middle and high school students, began in Pennsylvania in 1978. The first NC Envirothon was held in 1991. Over the years, NC students have represented the state quite well at the national competition.

Teams consist of 5 students who must be from the same school; unless they are members of the same study group, scout group, or 4-H group. Students prepare in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic resources, and current environmental issues. Additional information is available on the state Envirothon website:

http://www.ncenvirothon.org/

Model Water Tower Competition:

This year, 26 teams from various elementary and middle schools competed in the 4th Annual NC American Waterworks Assoc. – Water Environment Assoc. (AWWA-WEA) Model Water Tower Competition, which took place at the Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant on October 20, 2012. First, second, and third place prizes were awarded at both the elementary and middle school level. Great creativity was apparent, with towers resembling the Olympic torch, bubblegum machines, and even a Star Wars spacecraft!

To receive more information about the competition, contact event organizer Maggie Hennessy by phone at (919) 863-9259 or by email at mhennessy@hazenandsawyer.com, or Public Education Committee Chair George Simon at (980) 322-4936 or georgesimonjr7@gmail.com.

NC Science & Engineering Fair:

Don't forget the science fair! It's tried, true, and with lots of opportunities for students. Online information is available at:

http://www.ncsciencefair.org/

The Southeast Regional Science Fair will be held in Wilmington on February 9, 2013.

NC State University
A&T State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Empowering People • Providing Solutions

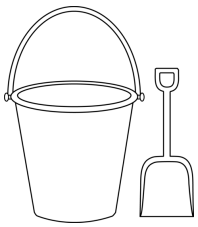
These competitions are great for public or private school students, scout groups, 4-H groups, and home-schoolers. High school students who are required to do a graduation project can opt to do one that also fits the Science Fair. They have very similar required elements.

If you have either a student or a group of students interested in participating, or you would like more information on putting a team together, contact Diana Rashash by phone (910) 455-5873 or by email diana_rashash@ncsu.edu.

Have you done your soil sampling? …

This is a great time of year to do your annual soil sampling. Have you done yours? The NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) provides free soil analyses to NC residents. The results provide valuable information on proper liming and fertilizer requirements based on what you are growing…or plan to grow.

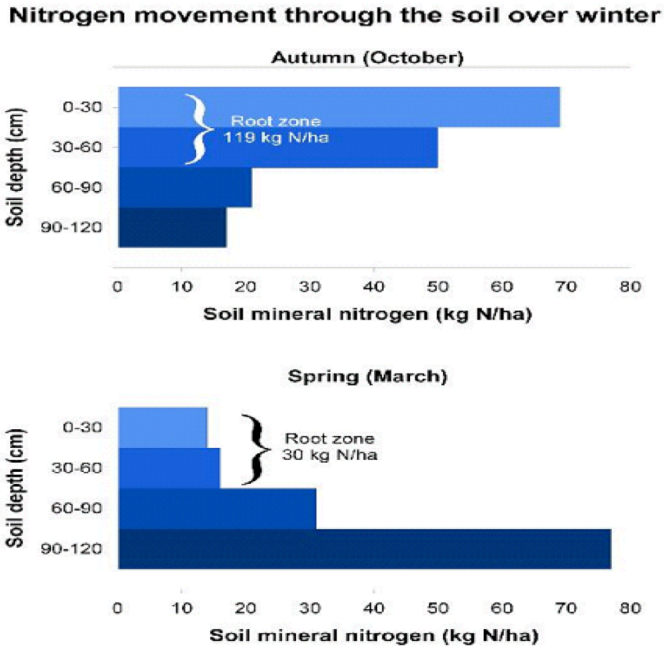
Soil sample boxes and information sheets are available at your local NC Cooperative Extension office. Roughly a pint of soil is required for each sample. **Do not** use a galvanized shovel or bucket; it will cause inaccurate results. Separate samples can be submitted for different uses, for example: lawn areas (type of grass makes a difference!!), vegetable garden, flower garden, fruit trees, and azaleas.



Beat the rush! Fall soil samples take only a couple of weeks to get the results. By late January, the turnaround time on results starts to increase. As spring progresses, it can be more than nine weeks until results are available.

Nitrogen *moves* …

If your soil test recommends adding lime to increase the soil's pH, fall is a good time of year to do this. Fall is **not** a good time of year to add nitrogen for plants that will grow next spring and summer. Why? Because nitrogen moves in the soil! It is very soluble and moves with the soil water. By spring, much of the nitrogen will have migrated below the root zone (see figure).



This is why split applications of nitrogen are recommended. The nitrogen is then available in the root zone when the plants need it. Less nitrogen is lost to the groundwater, where it can then become a pollutant in local wells or waterways.

Onslow pesticide collection event …

There will be a pesticide collection event in Onslow on Nov. 27th from 10 am to 2 pm. The NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) will be in the parking lot of the Onslow Multipurpose Complex to collect pesticides and herbicides that residents no longer want. This includes fertilizers that contain weed control products.

Materials should be in original containers, with the label present. If in alternate packaging, contents must be labeled. If you have large quantities of materials, badly degraded packaging, or questions, contact Melissa Huffman at NC Cooperative Extension: by phone (910) 455-5873 or by email melissa_huffman@ncsu.edu.

Soil Word Find #2: definitely a challenge!

Bedrock	Dry	Humus	Nutrient	Potassium	Sod
Blocky	Erosion	Leaching	Parent	Profile	Soil (10 times!)
Clay	Fertility	Loam	Peat	Relief	Structure
CLORPT	Fungus	Massive	Ped	Runoff	Texture
Compost	Granular	Microbes	Phosphorus	Sand	Tilth
Decompose	Groundwater	Mottles	Platy	Silt	Uptake
Deficiency	Horizon	Nitrogen	Pores	Slope	Wet

s	l	o	p	e	r	a	h	c	f	e	i	l	e	r	p	g
e	b	w	o	e	d	g	o	e	x	t	m	y	p	d	h	n
f	a	v	t	n	a	h	r	a	l	u	n	a	r	g	o	i
d	y	t	a	l	p	t	i	o	s	w	p	y	o	a	s	h
l	e	s	s	b	i	l	z	h	u	m	u	s	f	l	p	c
i	t	f	s	l	w	i	o	e	g	n	x	s	i	r	h	a
o	q	l	i	o	s	t	n	s	n	s	d	o	l	b	o	e
s	p	t	u	c	o	a	v	o	u	i	s	w	e	y	r	l
e	y	a	m	k	i	s	t	p	f	l	g	l	a	w	u	t
r	v	n	r	y	l	e	y	m	i	t	a	l	c	t	s	n
u	u	i	o	e	w	l	n	o	l	k	c	o	r	d	e	b
t	p	n	s	i	n	t	s	c	t	z	m	s	i	g	b	r
c	t	f	o	s	s	t	i	e	y	p	o	e	o	l	o	l
u	a	c	i	f	a	o	u	d	o	i	r	r	i	d	r	i
r	k	o	l	e	f	m	r	s	l	f	t	o	e	g	c	o
t	e	x	t	u	r	e	t	e	b	i	s	p	l	x	i	s
s	a	t	n	e	i	r	t	u	n	s	o	i	l	c	m	y

Poster contest …

The NC Zoo is holding an endangered species poster contest. The contest is divided into several grade categories. It is open to K-12 students in public or private schools; home-school students; and community groups, such as scouts or 4-H. Contest information and rules are available at:

http://www.nczoo.org/education/PosterContest/posterdetails.html

Entries are due by December 14, 2012. For additional information, phone (336) 879-7715, call toll free at 1-800-488-0444 ext. 7715, or email schoolprograms@nczoo.org

Christmas Cheer Time is Here Again

Onslow's 4-H County Council is again participating in the Elder Cheer program. Since 1996, the Onslow County Adult and Family Services unit at the Department of Social Services has coordinated the Elder Cheer program. This program places an emphasis on the elderly and disabled population in resident care facilities, while giving our community the opportunity to share their holiday spirit.

On December 4th, join us at 6:30 pm for the social gathering and assembling of items. Please plan on attending and completing a wonderful community service project.

In the meantime, please tell everyone you know that we are collecting the following items. All of these can be dropped off at the Cooperative Extension office, 4024 Richlands Hwy. Please remind our staff that they are for the Elder Cheer program. Items requested by Onslow County Elder Cheer are: lotion, candy (diabetic), aftershave, fruit baskets, socks, cassette tapes, key chains, watches, blankets, deodorant, electric blankets, combs, perfume, slippers, hair brushes, night gowns, batteries, gospel tapes, holiday novelties, toothbrushes, writing paper, stationery, support hose, powder, pajamas, disposable razors, personal care items (soap, shampoo, etc.), small flashlights, fashion jewelry, live plants, pens, window mounted bird feeders.

County Council is also in need of baskets, tins, and gift bags to help wrap these items. **All of these items are due in the 4-H office by November 30th.** For more information, contact Wanda Mills, 455-5873.

Don't forget …

Help save paper, postage, and your tax dollars! This newsletter and the annual reader survey are available online at: http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu/content/Envedarchive

It's that time of year! Please take a moment and complete the online survey. The information is used to help evaluate our work.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
North Carolina State University
Onslow County Center
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540