

## Onslow County Center

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# A Note From Emilee

## Preparing your Yard for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is upon us, despite the feeling that many of us still haven't quite recovered from the devastation of Florence last September. Many people are looking at their homes from a very different perspective. We can also take a look at our landscapes differently, and proactively. Which trees are too close to the house? How healthy are the trees in my yard, and could they withstand hurricane strength winds? Are the trees and shrubs in my yard known to grow well in a Onslow County?

Here are some simple steps you can take to help your landscape be more storm-resilient:

- Inspect your trees and shrubs for dead or unhealthy branches and prune them out. If you are unsure about the health of a large tree it is recommended that you hire a Certified Arborist to help you make decisions about keeping or removing the tree.

- If planting new trees and shrubs, consider doing some research to find plants that are known to be more wind resistant. A few large trees that are known to be more resilient in hurricane prone areas are live oak, southern magnolia, and bald cypress. Some smaller tree options include American holly, redbud, and fringe trees.

- Planting trees and shrubs in clusters, rather than alone, can help provide a buffer for the plants.

- Properly plant and maintain trees and shrubs to keep them healthy year round.

Contact the Plant Clinic, or reach out to me directly, if you have specific questions about your landscape. We are here to help.

Best regards,  
Emilee Morrison

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## Classes and Events

### Upcoming events

#### Landscape for Life

(July 10- August 14, Wednesdays 6-8pm)- Learn to design and build your landscape from the ground up. This series will teach you how to develop your unique landscape in a sustainable manner. Topics include soil, irrigation, site mapping, plant selection, proper planting

techniques, and landscape design. The series is free, but pre-registration is required. Call (910) 455-5873 to register.

**Monthly Training at MG Association Meeting-** July 11th at 10 am. This training is open to the public and focuses on topics related to gardening in Onslow County.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Training Class-** The class will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-12 starting January 14th through March 19th. If you are interested in learning more about the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program, please call (910) 455-5873 or email [emroz@ncsu.edu](mailto:emroz@ncsu.edu)

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## Squash Vine Boredom

by Jessie Mayman



Photo from Currituck Center NC State Extension

Photo by Jeff Hahn of UMN Extension

The squash vine borer (*Melitta curcurbitae*) is a clearwing moth that attacks vine crops. Common symptoms include wilting, and holes by the base of the plant filled with wet, orangey-greenish mush.

Avoid planting squash in the same location if you have had issues with these insects in the past. Remove and destroy any infected plants, and clean up crop debris at the end of the season.

Need to really squash the little bores? There are synthetic and organic pesticides available, but your timing is key. Insecticides must be sprayed just before the eggs hatch, because once the borer enters the stem, they are not very effective. Spray the stems thoroughly, especially near the base of the plant. Spraying the leaves is unnecessary.

Organic options include products with spinosad, pyrethrin, and neem as the active ingredient. They products break down relatively quickly, and will need to be re-applied every three to five days, according to the label, to maintain control. Synthetic insecticides with active ingredients such as permethrin, bifenthrin, or carbaryl can also be used. Reapply these products every seven to fourteen days according to the label.

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## Onslow County Farmers' Market

Summer is here at the Onslow County Farmers' Market! Being a local, seasonal market you can find blueberries, squash, field ripened tomatoes and other summer favorites. You will always find a variety of produce, honey, eggs, wine and handmade artisan products.



Two great markets to serve you:

**Tuesday**

930am - 130pm  
512 New Bridge St., Downtown Jacksonville

**Saturday**

830am - 130pm  
4024 Richlands Hwy., Jacksonville  
(FREE Yoga at 9am)

**Upcoming Events:**

July 6 - Summer Fest  
Aug 3 - Back to School Bash

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## Call the Guard!

by Jessie Mayman

*Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard' is drought-resistant, pest-resistant and, best of all, fends off deer, making it the perfect border plant. It grows best in full sun, in normal-dry soil, and produces long, thin, green and yellow leaves, 3-5 feet at maturity, at a 2-3 foot spread. The evergreen mound eventually develops large white flowers. After it's bloomed, just remove the flower and stem and enjoy the colorful foliage.



<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/yucca-filamentosa/>

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## July Tips and Tasks

### Garden

Remember to water according to plant needs. Vegetables and newly established plants require more frequent watering than established lawns and plants. Sandy soil requires more frequent watering than heavier soils.

\* Mulch plants to conserve moisture, inhibit weeds and reduce disease.

\* Drip irrigation and soaker hoses deliver water to the root zone without wetting leaves. Moisture on leaves can contribute to disease development. If you must use sprinklers, water early in the day so leaves dry quickly.

- \* Provide appropriate support for fruit and vegetable plants such as tomatoes. Trellises and staking will reduce disease and make maintenance easier.
- \* Harvest fruits and vegetables as they ripen. Remove overripe, damaged, or diseased fruits immediately to help control diseases and insects.
- \* Deadheading promotes new blossoms for many annuals and perennials.
- \* Remove weeds before they set seed.
- \* Watch for insects and diseases. If you find an insect or disease, have it identified and get recommendations for control.

## Lawn

- Calibrate your sprinklers. Use a couple of straight-sided containers such as coffee cans to measure just how much water you are putting out. Some of my sprinklers will apply 1" of water in 30 minutes while others only apply one quarter inch over 4 hours! It depends on the sprinkler, your water pressure and the amount of area being watered. For lawns, aim for 1 inch of water per week on heavier soils, one half inch of water twice a week on sandy soils.
- Mow lawns regularly and at the correct height to promote dense turf and reduce weeds. Centipede, Bermuda, and Zoysia should be mowed to 1 inch, while St. Augustine should be mowed at 3 inches.

## Trees and shrubs

- Remove spent flower clusters on crape myrtle to encourage more blooms.
- Treat for Japanese beetles only if they are seriously defoliating plant.
- Inspect trees and shrubs and removed dead or damaged branches in preparation for hurricane season.

## Planting Plans!

August is an amazing planting month, so start preparing now! Here are the optimal planting dates for the most popular crops.

Arugula 8/1 - 9 /31 (D)  
 Brussels sprouts 8/15 - 8/31 (T)  
 Cabbage 8/1 - 9/15 (T)  
 Cauliflower 8/1 - 9/30 (T)  
 Collards 8/1 - 9/15 (T)  
 Dill 8/1 - 9/15 (D,T)  
 Eggplant 8/1 - 8/15 (T)  
 Kale 8/1 - 9/15 (T)  
 Lettuce 8/25 - 9/25 (D,T)  
 Okra 8/1 - 8/30 (D,T)  
 Parsley 8/1 - 9/30 (T)  
 Peas (English/Garden) 8/1 - 9/30 (D)  
 Peas (Southern) 8/1 - 8/30 (D)  
 Peppers 8/1 - 8/15 (T)

Radishes 8/1 - 9/15 (D)  
Spinach 8/1 - 9/15 (D)  
Tomatoes 8/1 - 8/15 (T)  
Turnips 8/1 - 9/15 (D)

\*\* T = transplant; D = direct seed

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## Association Meetings

### **Onslow County Beekeepers' Association Meeting**

July 9th at 7 pm

Contact: Curt Hildt, President 910-545-8582

### **Onslow County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Meeting**

July 11th at 9am

Contact: Emilee Morrison, 910-455-5873, [emroz@ncsu.edu](mailto:emroz@ncsu.edu)

### **Onslow County Farmers' Market Board Meeting**

July 31st at 5pm

Contact: Marie Bowman, 910-455-5873, [marie\\_bowman@onslowcountync.gov](mailto:marie_bowman@onslowcountync.gov)

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## CONTACT US

If you have questions about lawn, landscape or garden problems, contact your local Cooperative Extension office. In Onslow County call 455-5873, Mon - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm, or visit us online anytime at <http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu>. While you are there, you can post your questions to be answered by email using the "Ask an Expert" widget (in the upper left hand corner).

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.

Contact: **Emilee Morrison, Extension Agent,  
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910-455-5873

