

Onslow County Center

A Note From Emilee

Dear readers and clients,

Hello, my name is Emilee Morrison. As of April 1, 2019, I assumed the role of Consumer Horticulture Agent for Onslow County. I wanted to briefly introduce myself to you and say that I am really looking forward to assisting you with your home horticulture questions. Prior to being hired in this role, I served as a Program Assistant here in Onslow County for over 2 years, and was actively involved with the Discovery Gardens and the Master Gardener Volunteers. I, like many of you, absolutely love gardening and being outdoors.

Having just started this position a few weeks ago, I am still getting my bearings and working on planning out classes and events for the remainder of the year. Please stay tuned to our various media outlets, such as our website and social media pages, for information about upcoming events. Again, I am excited about this opportunity and looking forward to serving the residents of Onslow County.

Best regards,
Emilee Morrison

Classes and Events

DISCOVERY GARDENS COMMUNITY WORK DAY

Want to get outside and learn more about gardening?
We would love your help!!

MAY 11
8:30-11:30 AM

We are seeking community members to come out and help with the Discovery Gardens maintenance and upkeep. There will be opportunities to learn from the Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Volunteers, and get an up close and personal tour of this beautiful public demonstration garden. Bring your own gloves, water, sun protection and we will provide gardening tools.

Participants are asked to register with Kate at (910) 455-5873 or akholt2@ncsu.edu by May 10th



Discovery Gardens Community Work Day May 11 (weather permitting) 8:30-11:30 am

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Plant Morphology and Identification May 30th 9-12

Join the Director of the Vascular Plant Herbarium from NC State University, Dr. Alexander Krings, for a workshop of plant morphology and identification. This class is free, and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Participants are asked to register with Kate at (910) 455-5873 or akholt2@ncsu.edu by by May 28th.

****Please note:** The Master Gardener Volunteer Training Class has been moved to the late winter/early spring of 2020. It was previously advertised as taking place in September of 2019. Once the official dates are set, they will be advertised. If you are interested in learning more about the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program, please call (910) 455-5873 or email emroz@ncsu.edu

Onslow County Farmers' Market



Onslow County Farmers' Market is open! Bringing you locally grown produce, honey, eggs, bread and handmade artisan products! Visit them at the main market bldg next to the Extension office and at their new Downtown location!

May 4th will be focused on Health and Wellness. This FREE event will celebrate local produce, food, health and community! Free health screenings, fitness demos, healthy cooking demonstrations, and more from 8:30 to 1:30 at the Farmers Market building.

Tuesdays, 930am - 130pm
512 New Bridge St

Saturdays, 830-130pm
4024 Richlands, Hwy

May Tips and Tasks

Choosing Fruit Plants for Onslow County

Some fruits are steady and reliable producers here, while others have more insect and disease problems or do not produce fruit consistently under our growing conditions. When homeowners ask for a recommendation of fruits to grow, my short list includes the following easy-to-grow options: muscadine grapes, blackberries, blueberries (southern highbush or rabbiteye varieties), figs and strawberries. Pecans, pears and plums can also be grown but they will require more management because of disease and insect pressures. Apples, peaches and nectarines are harder to grow and usually require a diligent spray schedule throughout the growing season to produce quality fruit. Some fruit just don't do well here. English walnuts, apricots, cherries, raspberries, grapes (other than muscadines), citrus (except in containers) and rhubarb are poor choices for Onslow County.

Some fruit crops require cross-pollination for best fruit set. Pecans, apples, pears, plums, many muscadines, and blueberries require another compatible variety planted nearby for best fruit set. Peaches, nectarines, strawberries, blackberries and figs are self-fruitful. Many fruit trees are pollinated by honeybees, which are susceptible to most insecticides, so never apply insecticides when fruit trees are in bloom.

Good site selection is important for success. All of these crops require good drainage, correct pH and full sun for optimum yield. Choose a site with well-drained soil. If you don't have well-drained soil, build a berm or raised bed 4 to 5 feet wide to plant on. Sample your soil so you can adjust the pH prior to planting. Blueberries are acid loving, preferring a soil pH of 4.5 to 5.8.

Garden

* Let the foliage of spring flowering bulbs die back naturally. They need to manufacture enough food to support next year's blooms. Plant warm season annuals like coleus, petunias, calibrachoa, sweet potato vine and vinca.

* Plant warm season vegetables like okra, melons, eggplant and sweet potatoes now. Start spraying zucchini and squash for squash vine borer in mid-May. Mulch around vegetable plants to conserve moisture and reduce disease problems.

Lawns

* Fertilize Centipede and St Augustine lawns at a rate of .5 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. which is equal to 10 lbs. of 5-0-15 per 1,000 sq. ft.

* Make sure your mower blades are sharpened and leveled for the mowing season.

* Leave grass clippings on the lawn - they return nutrients and water to the soil and do not contribute to thatch.

* Aerate lawns only if the soil is compacted. Mow frequently to encourage the lawn to thicken and reduce weed problems. Mow to the appropriate height for your turf.

* Visit Turf Files to download the appropriate lawn maintenance calendar for your turf or stop by the Extension office for a hardcopy: <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/maintenancecalendars>

* Do not use 2,4-D on centipede lawns now. It can cause significant damage on transitional centipede.

Trees and Shrubs

* Bagworms hatch in May. If you have plants that had bagworms on them last year, treat them now and keep a close eye out for little larva. If needed, prune spring blooming shrubs like azaleas and camellias after they finish flowering but no later than mid-July.

Planting Plans!

Planning ahead, carrots and pumpkins can be planted around June 15!

Association Meetings

Onslow County Beekeepers' Association Meeting

May 14th at 7 pm

Contact: Curt Hildt, President 910-545-8582

Onslow County Master Gardener Volunteer Association Meeting

No May meeting, June meeting is June 13th at 9am

Contact: Emilee Morrison, 910-455-5873,

emroz@ncsu.edu

Onslow County Farmers' Market Board Meeting

May 29th at 5pm

Contact: Marie Bowman, 910-455-5873, marie_bowman@onslowcountync.gov

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).

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Contact: **Emilee Morrison, Extension Agent,**
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