



Local Roadside Stands

DAIL STRAWBERRIES
(252) 823-0138
1118 Burnette Farm Road
Tarboro, NC 27886

DEW'S PRODUCE
(252) 823-3763
3773 US 258 South
Tarboro, NC 27886

MORRIS STRAWBERRY FARM
(252) 827-4736
692 Webbs Chapel Road
Macclesfield, NC 27852

GATLIN FARM STRAWBERRIES
(252) 883-2775
366 Wild Valley Lane
Macclesfield, NC 27852

HIGH'S FARM FRESH PRODUCE
(252) 813-9271
5055 NC 42 W.
Macclesfield, NC 27852

GREEN ACRES FARM
(252) 823-1153
6838 NC Hwy 33 NW
Tarboro, NC 27886

Be sure to contact the cooperative extension office for more information on these and updates on other farms.

YUMMY STRAWBERRY COBLER

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 stick butter
- 1 quart fresh strawberries

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix sugar, self-rising flour, and milk together. Melt butter in casserole dish. Put sliced strawberries on top of melted margarine. Pour sugar, self-rising flour, and milk mixture on top of strawberries. Do not stir! Place in oven and bake for approx. 45 minutes. Remove from oven and cool slightly. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

**Taken from Our State Magazine*



Upcoming Events

Rocky Mount Farmers Market Opens	4/5	
Bee Friendly Day - Rocky Mount Farmers Market	4/12	
Dail Farms Strawberries Opening Weekend	4/19	
*Tentative opening date. Please call 252-823-0138 for more information.		
Master Gardener Composting Workshop	4/26	10:00am - 2:00pm
*Located at the Eastern Carolina Agricultural Center, Rocky Mount		
*Cost required. Registration forms available online at www.go.ncsu.edu/edgecombeworms		
Cooperative Extension Celebration	5/17	10:00am - 4:30pm
*During Happening on the Commons, Tarboro		
Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale	5/17	10:00am - 4:30pm
*During Happening on the Commons, Tarboro		
Tarboro/Edgecombe Farmers Market Opens	6/6	7:00am - 10:00am
4-H State Congress	6/21	
*Raleigh, NC		

Strawberries should be ready Easter weekend, but contact your local grower for information

Please check with the Cooperative Extension office for updates on new events

NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

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The Edgecombe Edible

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING / SUMMER 2014

It's Finally Warming Up!

Wow! What a winter we had this past season. The temperatures were record-setting. It seems like there was some type of wintery weather in our forecast every other week this season. It was beginning to feel like warmer weather had forgotten about North Carolina, but I believe we have finally turned the corner to spring and summer!

The first trees you see spring to life are maples, saucer magnolias, and dogwood. I'm sure we're all familiar with *Forsythia sp.* otherwise known as the yellow-bell. This is always one of the telltale signs of the awakening of nature from it's winter slumber.

To the right is a picture of one of the "species" forms of tulip.

Centuries of hybridization and cultivation of the many species of tulip have given us the well-known hybrid or botanical tulip



Tulipa clusiana 'Lady Jane' - Naturalizes with relative ease. A great alternative to hybrid tulips in our southern gardens.

we're so accustomed to seeing. These are what your florist and formal display gardens have for your enjoyment and are beginning to bloom now. However, a

drawback to the boisterous flower of the hybrid tulip is its inability to naturalize and provide viewing pleasure each year. On the other hand the species tulips provide great staying power! They will reappear for years with relative ease. Be sure not to overlook this great companion in your garden. They will perform wonderfully in a mixed border setting or along the edge of an existing landscape bed. You don't necessarily have to write off the hybrid in your garden either. Just remember that you'll get more of a show if you use species tulips as companion plants next to hybrids. Also, remember the best time to plant tulip bulbs are during the fall of the year.

Strawberry Season is Upon Us

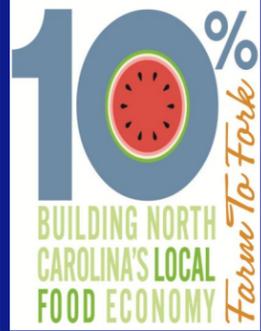
This winter growing season has been a constant fight for strawberry farmers throughout the state and in this area. The brutal cold we've experienced this season have put these little berry plants to the test.

Even though there has been some bud/plant damage this season area farmers were hard at work trying to keep their plants

from freezing to death. Their hard work has definitely paid off. We may have some Easter berries this year if warmer weather will hold through the next couple of weeks. Be sure to support your local farmers in the area: Scott Dail at Dail Farms a U-Pick and We-Pick operation, Brandon Sugg

with Morris Strawberry Farm, and Chris Roberts with Gatlin Farms Strawberries. For more information on how to contact these locations please contact the cooperative extension office.





Farmer's Market:
507 Albermarle Avenue
Tarboro, NC 27886

Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market

The Tarboro-Edgecombe Farmers Market will officially open for the 2014 season on Friday, June 6th. The Market will be open every Friday and Saturday through September from 7:00am to 10:00am on Friday and 8:00am-11:00am on Saturdays. Be sure to come out and support your local farmers in purchasing some of the freshest pro-

duce and vegetables around! Other possible items on the market spread are delicious jams and jellies, local honey, and crafts by local artisans. It is imperative that the community support their local market as this is a vital way to strengthen the local food economy. We have several vendors this year that will be contributing to the suc-

cess of the market. If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the market please contact the cooperative extension office...and remember:

It's Got to Be NC Agriculture!

"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

~Thomas Jefferson

Summer Vegetables

It's finally time to get your gardening hands dirty and be thinking about your summer vegetables. If you're one that was proactive and started your vegetable seeds early inside then congratulations! You have an advantage over your neighbors in direct seeding outdoors in the

next couple of weeks. Your plants will have several weeks of maturity already established come planting time. It is recommended to wait and plant seeds or veggie plants until after the average last freeze date and at minimum a week or so later than that. The last

freeze date for the Edgecombe County area is April 5. If you have small plants that you've grown indoors you can begin to bring them outside during temperatures above 65 degrees F to get them accustomed to their future environment.

Clary Sage Update

If you're wondering if that beautiful purple haze on the horizon will be returning to Edgecombe County and points further east than you're correct. The plants have really come to life the past several weeks as we

have progressively seen warmer weather return. The farmers that grow Clary sage are under contract with Avoca, Inc. a botanical extraction company located in Bertie County.

Clary sage is considered a biennial which mean it blooms in its second year of being planted and then dies. The flower stalks are

harvested in mid-summer and are then processed to extract the oils within the plant debris. This oil is then sold and used in perfume, fragrances, and colognes around the world. So next time you spray on your favorite sweetness just remember you could be wearing a little bit of Edgecombe County.

The flowers of *Salvia sclarea* are extremely pungent. Looks can indeed be deceiving.



THE EDGECOMBE EDIBLE

Turfgrass Troubles?



Spring dead spot is a potential problem for bermuda and zoysia lawns.

Everyone yearns for that golf course appearance for their home lawn. It's not too difficult to accomplish this, but some steps must be taken to ensure a healthy lawn.

Usually if there's a problem with weeds

in your lawn then your turf is not as healthy as it should be. Weeds and sometimes diseases are a sign of stress within the turf.

Be sure to follow the nutrient recommendations on your soil test report. If you need clarification on this please contact the cooperative extension office.

Above is a picture of spring dead spot in bermuda turf. This fungus begins to

attack the roots during the fall and winter. This makes the turf more susceptible to winter injury. Excessive nitrogen and lack of potassium in soils can enhance the problem. Once the symptoms appear it's too late for chemical control. Fungicides are available for control, but must be applied in the fall when temperatures are still between 60 and 80 degrees F.

Centipede turf doesn't tolerate high pH and heavy shading. It's also sensitive to high nitrogen and phosphorous levels. It requires little nitrogen. 1/2 lbs. per 1000sq ft. per year! If your centipede is yellowing it may need an application of iron sulfate.

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."
~Martin Luther

Edgecombe Master Gardener Volunteers

The Edgecombe County Master Gardeners have been hard at work whipping the Tarboro roundabout into shape for spring. This is a great eye-catching landscape as one enters the Town of Tarboro. Some of the plant species there include, *Serissa foetida*, *Muhlenburgia capillaris*, *Lantana sp.*, and *Dianthus sp.* Be sure to drive by this area once the plants awaken from their winter sleep. The Edgecombe Master Gardeners also maintain several butterfly gardens at local schools

around the county. One such garden is in its beginnings at Princeville Elementary School. There was a workday at the school last month to cultivate the area where the garden will be located. We hope to be installing plant material soon! The children were extremely excited and energetic about what wonders will await in their garden. There is no greater joy than showing a child the wonders of nature! One of the core missions of this program is education and out-

reach to the public on various landscape and gardening topics.

If you're interested in becoming an Edgecombe County Master Gardener Volunteer, a class will be offered starting in September. One must apply to take the course and then be accepted following an interview. For more information please contact the cooperative extension office.



The Bee Buzz

The Coastal Plain Beekeeping Chapter in conjunction with NC Cooperative Extension has just completed offering the Certified Beekeeping Short Course which was held in the Edgecombe County Administrative Building. There were 17 that took the class and written exam. The practical exam will be given during "Bee Friendly Day" located at the Rocky Mount

Farmers Market on Saturday, April 12. Even if you're not a beekeeper I encourage everyone to come out and support honeybees! They are fascinating parts of creation and are vital to our agricultural industry in pollinating our local crops.

If you're interested in honeybees and beekeeping I encourage you to join the Coastal Plain Beekeepers.

The chapter meets the third Tuesday of every month from 7pm to 9pm in the Edgecombe County Auditorium. The address is the same as the extension office and the entrance is located on East Granville Street in Tarboro.



Honeybee with its pollen baskets full of pollen!