

Spring 2005

Garden Tales

Cape-Atlantic Master Gardener Program Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1



This Issue's Featured Garden.....

Now that spring is just around the corner and we're able to enjoy the outdoors, I will be highlighting some gardens in New Jersey that you want to explore. They will all be within a few hours drive, and I guarantee you will enjoy them. This month's featured garden is The Gardens at Duke Farms. For a more extensive list of New Jersey Gardens and Arboretums listed by county check out the following website: www.jerseygrown.nj.gov/njgardens.html.



The Gardens at Duke Farms

"The greenhouse display gardens at Duke Farms are a magnificent floral showcase comprising eleven gardens from diverse cultures and regions of the world. In 1958, Doris Duke began a six-year process of designing and creating the display gardens. She traveled the globe seeking specimens and ideas to complete the gardens, which she first opened to the public in 1964. Italian, Colonial, Edwardian, French, English, Chinese, Japanese and Indo-Persian designs are juxtaposed near desert, tropical and semi-tropical environments. The indoor walking tour of the gardens lasts approximately one hour."

Directions:

From Philadelphia and South

Approximately 1½ hours from Philadelphia, Route 95 or 295 North to exit 7-B. Proceed on Route 206 North to Princeton; continue on Route 206 North for approximately 16 miles and exit at Duke's Parkway East. Follow the exit ramp and turn left at the stop sign and proceed straight through the traffic light to the entrance to Duke Farms. Stop at the Gatehouse to check in with security.



Visitors to Duke Farms should book tours in advance, as public access to the property is only by guided tour. One-hour tours of the indoor gardens are offered Wednesday thru Sunday from September to May. Tours are limited to 15 people and run from 10:40 to 3 P.M. For reservations call (908) 722-3700. For more information visit www.dukefarms.org.

Photos courtesy of Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Archives.

	Inside this issue:	
	Jersey Grown	2
	New Project	2
	Volunteer Opportunities	4
	Native Plant Sale	4

When Planting Think Jersey Grown



Have you ever been drawn into the lore of the garden magazine's beautiful pictures of unusual plants, and decided you just had to have one? Four months later the plant is turning brown and looking pitiful. You're sure you did everything right, so what could have happened. Maybe that plant was not meant to be grown in your area. A large amount of plant material sold in New Jersey was grown in Oregon or Washington. Even though the tag stated that it was hardy to your zone 7 gardens, the climate was just too different to successfully grow the plant. So what are you to do?

New Jersey has recently created a new program entitled Jersey Grown, the sister program to Jersey Fresh. This program is New Jersey's new brand of locally grown plants, trees, shrubs, and flowers. A Jersey Grown label certifies that the item is grown in New Jersey so it is accustomed to the state's soil and growing conditions, checked for quality, and disease and pest-free. The plant will be tagged with the Jersey Grown label, or a sign among the plants will indicate that they are Jersey Grown. So the next time you're looking for that perfect plant check the label. For more information go to www.jerseygrown.nj.gov.



Spring's To Do List

Well it's finally spring and I know everyone is anxious to get out into the garden, so here is a checklist of some things to do.

✓ Annuals:

Begin prepping your garden beds by removing any dead annuals from last year. You should be able to sow some of the hardier annual flowers now, such as sweet peas.

Remember to record in your garden journal when the last frost occurs this year and the dates that you plant each annual.

✓ Bulbs:

Get ready to start planting some summer flowering bulbs and tubers such as begonias, caladiums, and gladiolas. These bulbs will begin to grow when nights turn warm in mid June.

✓ Vegetables:

Many cool season vegetables can be started in the garden now. Plant some lettuce, broccoli, and cabbage. These grow best when air temperatures are between 55 to 70 degrees.

✓ Perennials:

Take an inventory of your garden. Decide what perennials need to be divided. Clean up others that may have dead leaves hanging on. If you didn't prune your perennials last fall, now is the time to cut them back to one inch above soil level.

✓ Shrubs:

Now is the time to remove any protective coverings from sensitive shrubs. Cut off any dead branches. Shrubs that bloom on new wood can be pruned to shape but don't prune shrubs that bloom on old wood. Wait till they are finished blooming and then prune to shape.

Embarking On A New Project



Janet Longo, along with the Master Gardener Program and Port Republic School district, are embarking on a revitalization of a strip of land in front of Port Republic School. They have received a donation of \$1000 from the Port Republic Municipal Alliance of Drug Abuse for the landscaping project. Matthew Geese of Rainbow Farms of Galloway has donated his time and effort to help make this project a success.

Currently the strip of land has some hollies and straggly shrubs growing on it. The intent is to turn the area in to an educational garden, including a butterfly garden and a shade garden. A Victory Garden is in future plans. The students involved in the project are from the fifth, six, and seventh grades and will be actively involved in all phases of the gardens development. There are eight different sessions planned to implement the project after school hours.

Any Master Gardener interested in helping with this project should contact Mona Bawgus at 625-0056. The date of the next meeting is March 30, 2005.

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

(Please contact Mona Bawgus, Master Gardener Coordinator, to Volunteer)

**Here is a list of upcoming volunteer activities.
We need your help to make them successful.**

- **Earth day - Saturday, April 24th**

We will be selling bluebird houses on Earth day. We will need volunteers to help work the booth at the fair.

- **Native Plant Sale:**

Plants need to be picked up from a nursery in Jackson, brought back here to the RCE building and be matched up with order forms. Pick up date is on the 15 of April and we could use volunteers for that day as well. *Profits to be used for Master Gardener field trips/guest lecturers.*

- **Spring**

We will be doing plant clinics at Hammonton library. One day a month for 3 months.

April 9 from 10AM to? Topic: Perennials and Annuals

May 4 PM Topic: Vegetables

June 4 various topics

- I would also like to start some vegetables here at the extension in early spring. We now have access to grow lamps and a place to set them up. Please come

and help. I am sure you will learn something about starting seeds and enjoy the experience.

- I would also like someone to help me set up a sharing garden. Other Master Gardeners have shared what they have grown in their gardens with people less fortunate. I think this could be a very rewarding project for all concerned.
- Plant swap— tentatively scheduled for late May or early June.

For more information on how to
become a
Master Gardener,
contact Mona Bawgus at
(609) 625-0056

Cape-Atlantic Master Gardener Newsletter

Published by:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic
County
6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 625-0056 ext. 6123
Office Hours 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Edited by:

Mona Bawgus
Program Assistant—Agriculture

Jenny S. Carleo

Jenny S. Carleo
Program Associate, Agriculture



Native Plant Sale

Now thru April 5th

Pick up plants on **April 15th** at:

RCE of Atlantic County
6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

For order forms and descriptions of plants
available visit our website at
www.aclink.org/rce-atlantic.com.
Just look for the Native Plant Sale info
under "What's The Buzz" on the



RUTGERS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH & EXTENSION
NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
88 LIPMAN DRIVE, MARTIN HALL
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901-8525

Official Business

Cape-Atlantic Master Gardener Program Newsletter



NJ AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RUTGERS
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH & EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM