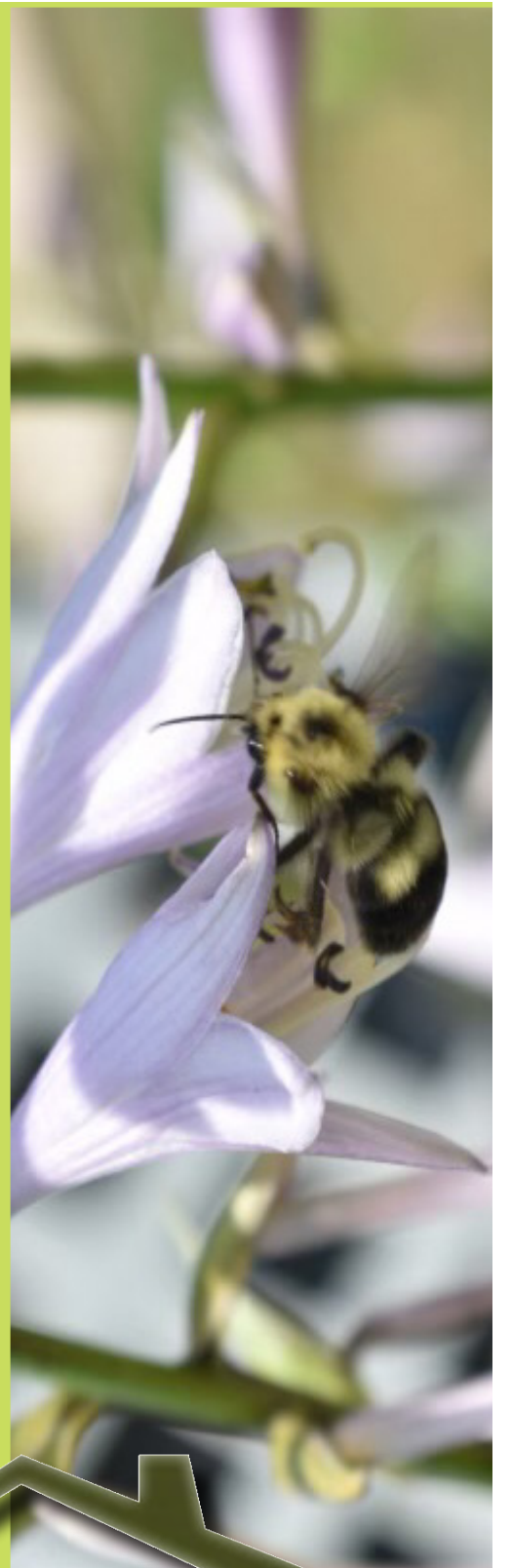
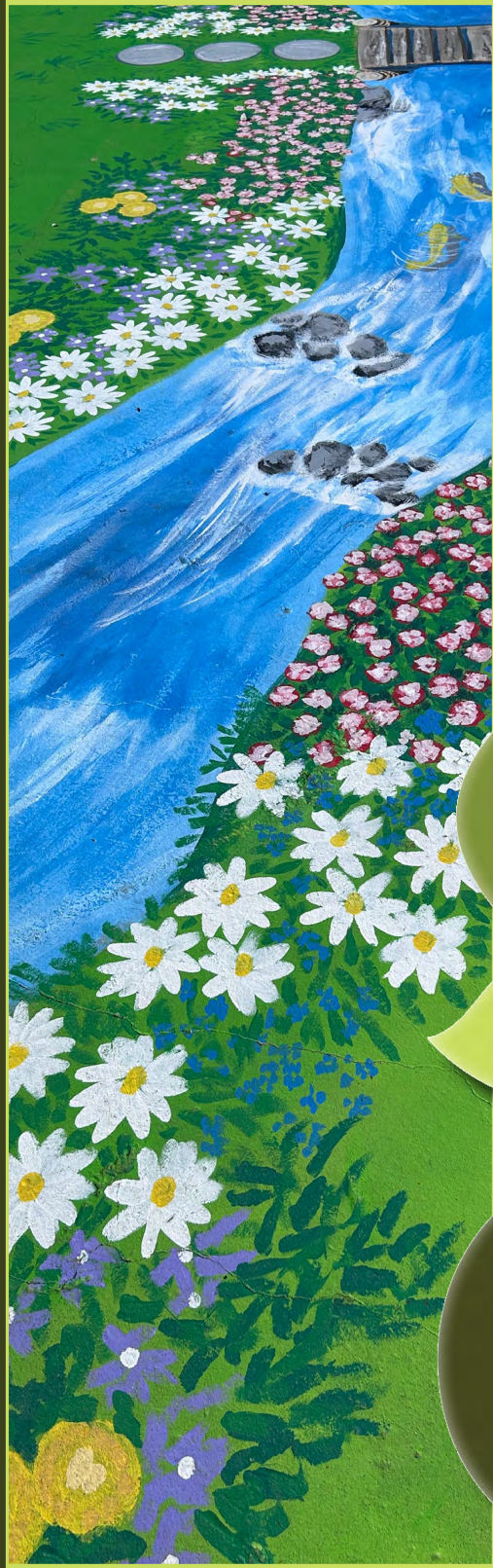
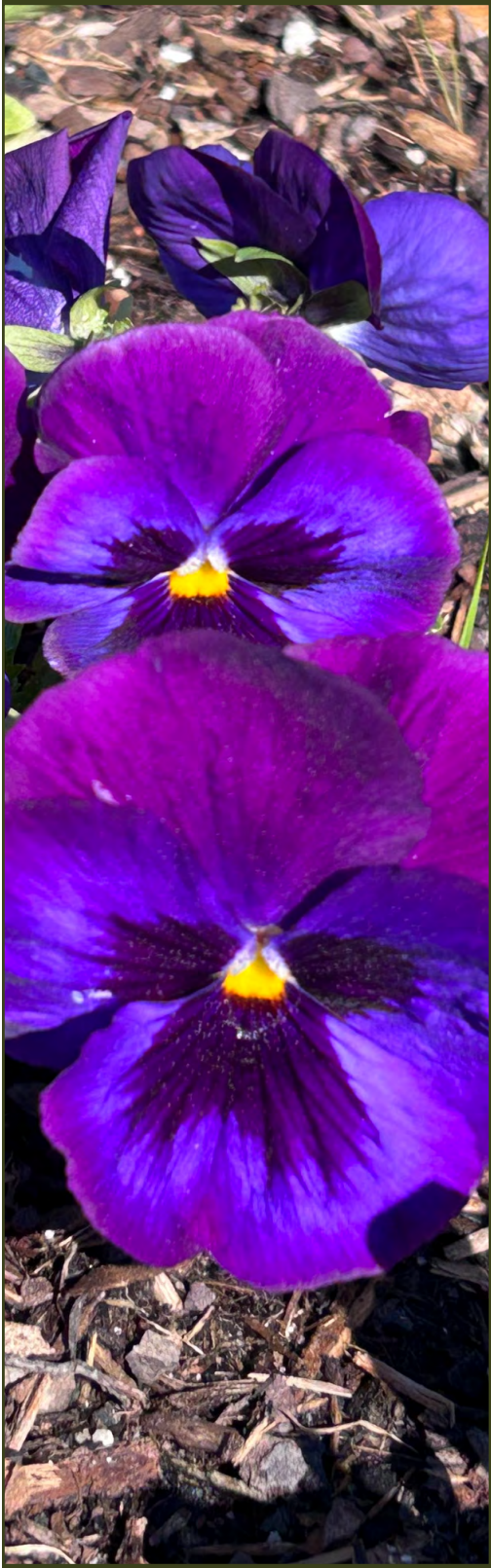


April 10, 2024



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Yard & Garden Tips

March (<http://www.clemson.edu/laurens>)

Watch out for:

Lawns

- White grubs - March begins the cycle of treatment for grub problems in your lawn. The bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, etc.) does a nice job on Japanese Beetle grubs, but it does take a little time to build up in the soil. *Bacillus thuringiensis* does not, however, control other types of grubs. See White Grub Management in Turfgrass for more information.

Things to do:

Flowers

- Pruning - March is a nice time to prune your repeat-blooming roses such as floribunda and hybrid tea roses, just as the buds break dormancy. Do not prune your once-flowering roses now, but instead prune them after the bloom. See Pruning Roses for more information.

Lawns

- Fertilizer - it's time for application of nitrogen for Bermuda grass and zoysiagrass lawns that have been overseeded for the winter. Follow the recommendations on your soil test report for your lawn. DON'T fertilize centipede or St. Augustine yet, nor warm-season lawns that were not overseeded. See Fertilizing Lawns for more information.

- Crabgrass and goosegrass - make the initial attack on your war with these weeds this month. You will need an application of a pre-emergent herbicide this month and again in June. See Grassy Weeds for more information.

- Wild garlic and wild onion - March is the time for the second herbicide application for these two problems if you have them in your yard. See Wild Garlic and Wild Onion for information on herbicides and rates of application.

- Henbit - this nice little lawn weed can be a problem. Treat now to prevent its return this summer. See Henbit for more information.

- Nutsedge or "nutgrass" - nutsedge is very difficult to control. There are two main types in our area - purple and yellow. You must identify which you have before you begin treatment. Herbicides must be applied when the nutsedge is actively growing, which means decent soil moisture and warm conditions. See Nutsedge for more information.

- Trampweed - if you saw this fluffy-looking weed last summer and fall, now is the time to treat your yard to prevent its return. This should be your second treatment if you have a cool-season lawn. Treat your warm-season lawn in November and February. See Annual Trampweed for more information.

- Irrigation - now is a good time to inspect your irrigation

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system for repairs and upgrades. You should also scan your automatic timer's manual to re-familiarize yourself with how to set times. See the Home and Garden Center's irrigation publications for more information.

Ponds

- Pond fertilization - if your pond needs fertilization this month is a good time. Do not fertilize within 4 to 6 weeks of liming the pond. See Fertilizing Recreational Fish Ponds for more information.

Vegetables

- Vegetables - Some planting times for more common vegetables (See Planning a Garden for a full list and planting depths and spacings):

- o Asparagus crowns - early February - late March
- o Cabbage - Feb. 15 - Apr. 1
- o Carrots - Mar. 1 - 15
- o Lettuce - Mar. 1 - 15
- o Irish Potatoes - Mar. 15 - 30
- o Turnips - Feb. 20 - Apr. 1

All pamphlets referenced in this calendar may be found online: <http://www.clemson.edu/hgic> or <http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/>.

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How to Plant Grass Seed

There are several purposes for installing grass seed. One purpose is to seed your entire lawn or even overseed a warm season turfgrass with a cool season turfgrass. You can also use grass seed to repair damaged or patchy areas of your lawn.

Seed is often cheaper than a full sod installation; however, the number one issue with seeding is weed pressure since your seed will take time to become established and form a thick carpet of grass. Our seed planting guide below will ensure that you go through all the necessary steps to provide you with an environment that promotes healthy seed growth and establishment.

Youtube video link: <https://youtu.be/aR9FZMJcqmY>

Step 1: Test the Soil

The first step we recommend is testing your soil—before you apply chemicals to kill off old grass and before planting new seed. Your soil's health is what determines the overall health of your grass. Working from the ground up is the best way to ensure superior grass quality.

It also helps balance your soil's pH so that when you apply nutrients found in fertilizers, your grass is able to actually absorb them. In other words, if your soil's pH is off, nutrients won't be absorbed as effectively, meaning the fertilizer you apply may be a waste of money.

Taking a soil analysis and sending it to a laboratory is affordable, but typically takes about two weeks to complete depending on where you send it. Keep this timeframe in mind before planting seed so that you have enough time to receive results and determine what your soil needs.

Lastly, this step should be completed before applying a non-selective herbicide in step 2 below. Once applied, the chemicals in the herbicide may alter your soil pH temporarily before returning back to normal. Take a soil test before applying a non-selective herbicide for a more accurate reading.

Step 2: Choose Your Seed

Selecting the type of grass seed for your lawn is probably one of the most enjoyable parts of the lawn installation process.

With that being said, be wary of picking grass solely for its aesthetic and beauty. Find the best grass seed for your home and make sure the grass can thrive in your environment and climate first. Generally speaking, the country is broken up into three main regions: areas that support cool season grass, the transition zone and areas that support warm season grass.

For example, the transition zone (North Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, North Texas, and Southern California) uses tall fescue seed a lot. When you get north of I-70 in the eastern United States, you will find that bluegrass is a common option. You may also see blends with ryegrass and bluegrass.

If you're located in the warm season regions of the United States, you'll probably use seed like bermuda grass seed, centipede grass seed, paspalum seed or other warm season varieties. It should be noted that there's no such thing as St. Augustine seed. Additionally, although you can find zoysia grass seed on the market, it doesn't germinate very well.

Warm season regions will also use cool season grass seed as it gets closer to winter to keep lawns green when the warm season grass enters winter dormancy. Cool season grass stays green during the winter, so it's not uncommon

to see a bermuda grass lawn overseeded with ryegrass seed.

Also, when selecting a type of grass seed, be sure to ask a professional about how much maintenance goes into the different types of grasses to see how much time, effort and money you'll have to put into it. Here is a list of some things to do and think about before selecting a new turfgrass:

- Research the area and climate you are located in.
- Familiarize yourself with the different grass characteristics.
- Understand the visual differences between grass colors, textures and other physical aspects.

Step 3: Measure Your Planting Area

The third step involves finding out how much seed you'll need to purchase. We recommend using the Area Calculator Tool to draw and measure how much surface area you'll need to cover.

- Start by entering your address.
- Draw an overlay shape for where you plan to install new seed.
- You can now move forward with this square footage number to compare seed prices.

Although the tool was originally meant to help homeowners discover how much sod they need, the tool provides you with information about how many square feet you'll need to cover, which can also be applied to seed.

Step 4: Prepare Your Soil

When Seeding a New Lawn

This is one of the more important steps of the process. The success of the seed and new grass directly depends on the conditions in which it is planted. If the soil is bad, the seed will likely struggle to get the nutrients it needs for establishment. This is why it is important to test your soil as mentioned in step 1.

Before installation, clear the area of any currently existing grass or weeds. If the soil is bad, the seed will likely struggle to get the nutrients it needs for establishment. It's almost guaranteed that weeds will compete with the germinating seed until your lawn becomes fully established. We recommend following these steps:

- Begin by making an application of a non-selective herbicide or some other glyphosate-based product 10–14 days before seed planting takes place.
- Wait 3–4 days and then make a second application if the grass isn't dying quickly enough.
- Once your grass is dead, use a sod cutter or rototiller to remove the top layer of grass and debris.

When Filling Damaged or Patchy Areas

If you are planning on repairing bare spots with seed, rid the area of any problems that may exist first. These issues could include weeds, insects or disease. This can be as simple as pulling the weeds out by hand in the area or as difficult as treating the area with an herbicide, insecticide or fungicide.

Step 5: Plant the Seed and Cover

Now that you've created an environment to successfully grow healthy seed, you can begin planting. A broadcast spreader or a drop spreader is definitely needed for larger lawns, but if you're going over smaller areas, a hand-held grass seed spreader will do the trick.

Grass continued

When planting the seed, use the recommended seeding rate on the back of the bag your seed came in. The time spent seeding your lawn depends on the size of your yard.

Another item we suggest using is straw or topsoil coating. If you're going to plant seed on the bare ground, it's smart to keep it somewhat protected from birds or weather.

You can also lightly rake the seed into the soil after planting to cover it up with a light coating of topsoil. Thin soil coverage helps with germinating. You can use topsoil, straw, mulch or peat moss for this reason.

Step 6: Water and Fertilize

Select a grass seed fertilizer that provides the necessary nutrients your soil may need according to the soil analysis results you should've received by now. Your new seed needs plenty of phosphorus at this time.

Phosphorus helps roots grow so that the new sod can establish successfully. Sometimes it can be hard to understand a fertilizer label so we discuss a few ways to interpret and find what you're looking for here.

We recommend using Lawnifi's® New Lawn Starter Box, which comes with three bottles of liquid grass seed fertilizer.

Grow, the first and second bottles of the New Lawn Starter Box, is especially useful during the establishment process. It serves to promote healthy root growth of newly planted seed by providing nutrients like phosphorus, potassium and carbon.

Apply the first bottle of Lawnifi Grow at half rate (only use half of the bottle). The soil should be moist 3–4 inches deep.

Step 7: Post-Planting Care

For the next 10–20 days, water your newly planted seed about 1 inch deep into the soil's surface every day. Take rainfall into consideration. Use a sprinkler to mist over the surface of the soil so that it is moist, but not soggy.

We also recommend using the remainder of your New Lawn Starter Box in accordance with the application schedule during establishment. Once the seed starts to germinate, keep the top 2 inches of soil moist until grass reaches a mowing height of around 3 inches.

After that, decrease watering to twice per week and soak the soil about 6–8 inches deep. Then transition to a regular maintenance schedule based on the grass type you have selected.

When is the best time to plant grass seed?

The best time to plant grass seed depends on the type of grass seed you use and where you're located. Generally speaking though, fall is the best time of the year to seed a cool season turfgrass variety whereas spring is the best time to seed a warm season turfgrass variety.

When is the worst time to plant grass seed?

The absolute worst time of year to plant grass seed is during the winter and summer. Even if you have a cool season variety of grass seed, the chances of it sticking around and not being washed away in the snow are pretty low.

It's not recommended during the summer either because warm season grass



seed will be forced to establish in extreme heat. You'll spend a lot of time and money irrigating it. Cool season grass seed, on the other hand, is dormant during the summer.

How to Overseed a Lawn for Winter

While warm season grass goes dormant and turns brown in the winter, cool season grass doesn't. A lot of homeowners overseed their warm season lawn with cool season grass seed so that it stays green year-round.

If this is something you're going to do, the real trick is overseeding at the right time of year. This typically takes place 30 days before the first frost in your area. The timing will vary depending on where you are located, but generally, the first day of frost in the southern two-thirds of the United States occurs around the first few weeks of October. To overseed, you will need to purchase grass seed and apply it at the recommended rate on the bag with a broadcast or drop spreader.

Final Tips

We wish you success on your planting project, but before you get started, here are some final tips:

Timing Matters

- If there is a forecast for heavy rains, winds, storms or hurricanes, hold off on seeding until afterward so it doesn't wash the seed out.
- Don't seed too late in the year (December) because the seed won't germinate, and you won't get a lot of growth.
- Seeding too early in the summer is also a bad idea because it'll be too hot. Seeding in temperatures ranging from the 50s–80s is the recommended time.
- Most consumer products will specify the best time to lay seed on the bag.

Things to Look Out For

- The biggest things you want to keep an eye out for are weeds and diseases. For example, ryegrass placed in humid or wet areas encourages diseases. Rye is more susceptible to gray leaf spot and disease in general. If you seeded damaged areas in your lawn caused by diseases in the first place, be sure the disease is completely gone before applying more seed to the damaged area.

AGRICULTURE

Clinton Farmer Wins First Place in 2023 National Corn Yield Contest
St. Louis, March 15, 2024

Clinton farmer Marji Young earned a first-place state award in the 2023 National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) National Corn Yield Contest with a yield of 204.81 bushels per acre. Young won with DEKALB® DKC62-08 brand in the No-Till Non-Irrigated Class and is one of the top corn growers in the nation.

“We congratulate Marji on this outstanding achievement,” said Jamie Horton, DEKALB Brand Manager. “In today’s volatile economy, it’s never been more important to optimize input performance with products and people you trust. We thank our farmer customers for choosing to plant DEKALB brand corn to help

push yield boundaries with exclusive genetics not found with any other seed brand and a portfolio of consistent product solutions.”

Farmers who planted DEKALB corn captured the most national placement awards (18 of 27), as well as 246 state level awards, 138 of which yielded 300 bushels per acre or higher. Indiana farmer Kevin Kalb achieved a record yield for his farm and the overall highest non-irrigated yield with 425 bushels per acre in the NCGA 2023 National Corn Yield Contest with DEKALB® DKC68-35RIB Brand Blend. DEKALB products provide the latest exclusive genetics from Bayer’s robust global breeding engine and product testing network to help drive consistent performance potential. Over the past three years, DEKALB® brand has had more national winners in the NCGA Yield

Contest than any other seed brand.

The 58th NCGA National Corn Yield Contest continues to challenge farmers to achieve record-setting yields and improve agricultural management practices.

Clinton Farmer Wins National Award in 2023 Soybean Yield Contest
St. Louis, March 18, 2024

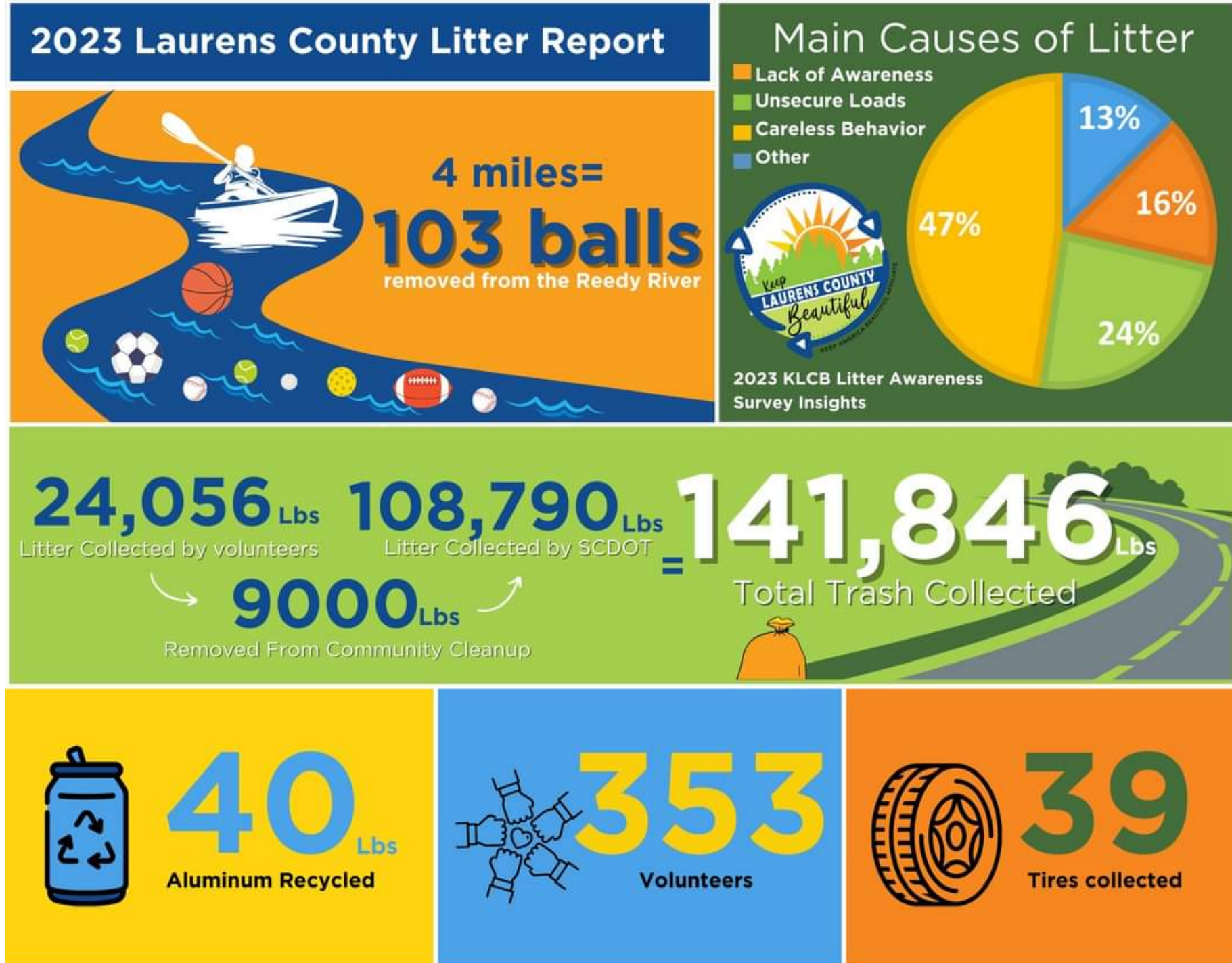
Clinton farmer Michael Young was recently honored among the region’s highest-yielding soybean farmers in the 2023 Asgrow® National Yield Contest. Young won the award with an impressive yield of 103.22 bushels per acre with Asgrow AG54XF0 Brand.

“We are honored to celebrate Michael on this outstanding yield performance,” said Dupal Chaudhari, N.A. DEKALB Asgrow Deltapine

Brand Lead. “The Asgrow brand takes great pride in working with farmers to innovate for the future and reach their goals with exclusive genetics not found in any other seed bag.”

Among 55 farmers receiving awards, 23 achieved yields of more than 100 bushels per acre and Georgia farmer Alex Harrell of Smithville set the world record for soybean yield with an average 206.7 bushels per acre in the 2023 contest. Harrell achieved the record with Asgrow® AG48X9 brand soybeans. The Asgrow National Yield Contest first debuted in 2012 and encourages farmers to push soybean yield limits. The contest provides farmers the opportunity to innovate and learn more about the latest input technology and management practices for continuing advances in agricultural production.

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Reap the Benefits of a Creeping Thyme Lawn

Posted on December 8, 2023 by thegardenbeds

In the world of landscaping and gardening, there's a hidden gem that has been gaining popularity over the years – the creeping thyme lawn. This aromatic, low-maintenance ground cover is not only visually stunning but also offers a range of benefits for both the environment and homeowners. In this article, we will explore the numerous advantages of planting a creeping thyme lawn, from its beauty and fragrance to its ecological benefits and ease of care.

Creeping Thyme – A Fragrant Carpet
Visual Appeal

Creeping thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) is a perennial herb that forms a dense, low-growing carpet of foliage. Its tiny, rounded leaves, which range in color

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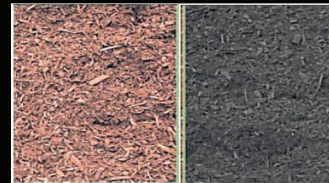
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from green to silver or even variegated, create a lush and inviting texture. When in bloom, creeping thyme produces clusters of small, vibrant flowers in shades of pink, purple, or white, adding a pop of color to your landscape.

Aromatic Delight

One of the most captivating features of creeping thyme is its delightful fragrance. As you walk across your creeping thyme lawn, the gentle release of its aromatic oils fills the air with a sweet and earthy scent reminiscent of herbs and spices. This fragrance can transform your outdoor space into a sensory paradise, making it a popular choice for gardens and pathways.

Low Maintenance, High Reward

Drought Tolerance

Creeping thyme is a champion in the world of drought-tolerant plants. Once established, it requires minimal water, making it an eco-friendly choice for regions with water restrictions or where water conservation is a concern. Its deep-rooted system allows it to thrive even in arid conditions, reducing the need for constant watering.

Weed Suppression

A creeping thyme lawn is excellent at suppressing weeds. Its dense growth and ground-hugging nature create a natural barrier that shades out unwanted invaders, reducing the need for chemical herbicides. This not only saves time and effort but also contributes to a healthier and more sustainable garden environment.

Erosion Control

The root system of creeping thyme helps prevent soil erosion on slopes and hillsides. By stabilizing the soil, it reduces the risk of landslides and runoff, which can be especially beneficial in areas prone to heavy rainfall or flash floods.

Benefits for Pollinators and Wildlife

Pollinator-Friendly

Creeping Tyme, next page



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Creeping Thyme -- from previous page

Creeping thyme is a favorite among pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Its nectar-rich flowers provide a vital food source for these insects, contributing to the overall health of your local ecosystem. By planting a creeping thyme lawn, you're helping support declining pollinator populations.

Biodiversity

The presence of a creeping thyme lawn can attract a variety of beneficial insects and even small mammals like rabbits. This increased biodiversity in your garden can lead to a more balanced and resilient ecosystem.

Culinary and Medicinal Uses

Culinary Delights

Creeping thyme is not just a feast for the eyes and nose; it can also tan-

talize your taste buds. Its leaves are edible and are often used in culinary dishes, imparting a subtle earthy flavor with a hint of lemon. Add creeping thyme to your favorite recipes for an extra layer of taste and aroma.

Medicinal Properties

In addition to its culinary uses, thyme has a long history of medicinal use. It contains compounds with potential health benefits, including antimicrobial and antioxidant properties. While creeping thyme may not be as potent as its larger relatives, it can still be used in herbal remedies and teas for minor ailments.

Tips for Growing

a Creeping Thyme Lawn

Soil Preparation

Before planting, ensure your soil is

well-draining and moderately fertile. Creeping thyme prefers slightly alkaline soils but can adapt to various soil types.

Sunlight

Creeping thyme thrives in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. Ensure it receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily for optimal growth.

Spacing

Plant creeping thyme plugs or seeds at the recommended spacing to allow for proper coverage and growth.

Watering

Water your newly planted creeping thyme lawn regularly until it's established. Afterward, water sparingly, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings.

Pruning

Occasionally trim back your creeping thyme to maintain a neat appearance and encourage healthy growth.

Conclusion

A creeping thyme lawn is more than just a beautiful addition to your garden; it's a practical and eco-conscious choice. With its striking appearance, enchanting fragrance, and numerous benefits, this ground cover offers a world of rewards to both homeowners and the environment. Whether you're looking to conserve water, support local pollinators, or simply enjoy the soothing aroma of thyme underfoot, planting a creeping thyme lawn is a decision you won't regret. Embrace the magic of this aromatic carpet and reap the benefits of nature's artistry in your own backyard.



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Backyarding

The TurfMutt Foundation Offers Tips to “Yard Your Way” This Spring

TurfMutt Celebrates 15 Years Teaching How to Save the Planet One Yard at a Time

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The TurfMutt Foundation, which is celebrating 15 years this year of advocating for the care and use of yards, parks and other green spaces, encourages homeowners to put their own spin on their personal outdoor space this spring by adopting a “yard your way” attitude.

The act of “backyarding,” which is the act of using our yards, parks and other green spaces for activities typically associated with our indoor life such as dining, working, entertaining and more, has gained much traction in recent years. Now, with spring just around the corner, the Foundation encourages people to ratchet up their backyarding activities by identifying their personal style and personality.

“Your yard isn’t just for aesthetics,” reminds Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation, “It’s purposeful and contributes to our and the planet’s well-being. We encourage you to design your space that shows off your sense of style and supports what is important to your family.”

Here are six ideas to “yard your way” this spring:

- Business in the front (yard) & party in the back. If you live in a neighborhood with strict homeowner’s association regulations, you may feel hemmed in by what you can do in the public-facing areas of your yard. But you can use the backyard to really highlight your style, whether it’s cozy and family friendly or modern and sleek.

- Sensible & sustainable. What you choose to plant in your yard can affect climate change on a microlevel, and eco-conscious homeowners know selecting native plants is good for the environment. They are more resilient, require less water and promote biodiversity. BONUS: they are also easier to maintain.

- Budget backyarding. Your yard is full of cost-saving measures that budget-conscious families can take. Skip the fancy restaurant and dine alfresco on your patio. Host a family movie night on a blanket of backyard grass. Or consider trading a pricy weekend getaway for a backyard staycation.

- Biodiverse digs. Human-made and synthetic environments have changed the landscape, so pollinators and wildlife rely on our yards and community green spaces to bring equilibrium to the ecosystem. Planting for these local critters can turn your backyard into a private nature preserve.

- DIY...or don’t. If you are a weekend warrior who relishes DIY projects, taking care of your yard yourself can be an excellent choice. But there is no shame in your backyard game if you outsource yardwork so you can spend your time outside just enjoying your yard. You could also have a landscaping crew do the basic mowing and maintenance so you can spend your time enjoying gardening or just enjoying it.

- Park it. Community greenspace and neighborhood parks make it possible to “yard your way” even if you don’t have an outdoor space to call your own. Want to sit under a shade tree and read? A community park often offers these kinds of resting spots. Want to do a little hiking but not travel hours out of town? An urban trail system is an excellent opportunity to hoof it close to home. You can even stake a claim to your own patch of nature and try your hand at growing things through community gardening programs.

For more, sign up for Mutt Mail, a monthly e-newsletter with backyarding tips and all the news from the TurfMutt Foundation here. To learn more about creating the yard of your dreams, visit TurfMutt.com. Look for Mulligan the TurfMutt on the CBS Lucky Dog television show.

About TurfMutt

TurfMutt, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2024, was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s (OPEI) TurfMutt Foundation and has reached more than 70 million children, educators and families since 2009. Championed by Foundation spokesdog, Mulligan the TurfMutt, and through education partners such as Weekly Reader, Discovery Education and Scholastic, TurfMutt has taught students and teachers how to “save the planet, one yard at a time.” Today, TurfMutt is an official USGBC® Education Partner and part of their global LEARNING LAB. TurfMutt has been an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2017, the TurfMutt animated video series won the coveted Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award for Best Interstitial Series. TurfMutt’s personal, home habitat was featured in the 2017-2020 Wildlife Habitat Council calendars.

More information at www.TurfMutt.com.



Spotlight on Agriculture award recipients

Winners announced in the
50th Annual Spotlight ON
Agriculture:

- Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. George Copeland
- LDHS FFA Member of the Year – Victoria Wood
- CHS FFA Member of the Year – Hannah Nelson
- Woodlands Manager of the Year – James M. Fleming
- Cattleman of the Year – Dusty Dyal
- Outstanding Boiler Producer (Amick) –

- Tim Faulkner
- Outstanding Boiler Producer (Best Dressed) – Rob Roper IV
 - Outstanding Dairyman of the Year – Amber Ettinger
 - Outstanding Horticulturalist of the Year – Jody Prosser
 - Special Commodity Producer – Braden and Mary Grace Iusti

Scroll down on this page to find more than 65 pictures of the event and winners:

<https://www.facebook.com/laurensconservation/>

Ready to plant that garden? Not quite yet!

Bryan Smith
Clemson Extension Service

Many of us want to plant our vegetables and tender flowers as soon as possible in the spring, and the recent warm weather has us edging toward the hoe and tiller. As tempting as it may be we certainly don't want to lose our plantings to frost, and Mr. Jack Frost is not quite finished for the season. The Department of Natural Resources has a web page detailing the chance of frost by date for each county. The Laurens County section (https://www.dnr.sc.gov/climate/sco/ClimateData/SC_Frost_Freeze_Dates.pdf) provides the following information:

Spring

- 50% chance of frost on April 7
- 30% chance of frost on April 12
- 10% chance of frost on April 24
- Latest date of known frost occurrence - May 8

This should help you make a more informed decision on how early you should plant. **April 15** has been widely regarded as a good day to start planting, and for most years that would be correct. Just remember that there is still a small chance of frost through the end of April. Watch the weather forecast and prepare to protect your tender plants if a frost does occur.

April Yard and Garden Tips (<http://www.clemson.edu/laurens>)

Watch out for:

Fruits

- Fireblight - inspect fruit trees for fireblight. If you had problems with fireblight last year, you will need to spray your blooms this year to prevent the spread. The best defense is a fireblight-resistant variety. See Fireblight for more information.

Lawns

- Lawn diseases - it's time to begin watching for problems with brown patch and dollar spot in warm season grasses, especially if you had problems with one of them last year. See Brown Patch Disease of Lawns and Leaf Diseases of Lawns for more information.

- Chinch bugs - watch for chinch bugs in your warm season lawn. See Chinch Bugs for more information.

- White grubs - the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* does a nice job on Japanese Beetle grubs, but it does take a little time to build up in the soil. *Bacillus thuringiensis* does not, however, control other types of grubs. See White Grub Management in Turfgrass for more information.

Vegetables

- Garden insects - keep an eye out for corn earworm and cucumber beetle in the garden. See Insect Pests of Sweet Corn and Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Insect Pests for more information.

Things to do:

Flowers

- Bulbs - you should be planting your summer- and fall-flowering bulbs in April and May, such as dahlias, gladioli, cannas, and lilies. Be sure to plant after the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees F. See Summer- and Fall-Flowering Bulbs for more information

- Dividing - it's time to divide fall blooming perennials. See Dividing Perennials for more information.

Fruits

- Spray fruit trees - it's time to begin spraying your fruit trees with a fungicide (Captan, etc.) every 7 to 10 days to provide the beautiful fruit you look

"If you want to hear the sound of birds don't buy a cage. Plant a tree."



Fb/Jose Gomez

forward to. Do not use any insecticides on the trees until less than 10% of the blooms remain - you certainly do not want to hurt your bee pollinators. The fungicide will have no effect on them.

Lawns

- Add iron - centipede and St. Augustine lawns will appreciate an application of iron this month to bring out a richer green color without stimulating excessive growth. See Fertilizing Lawns for more information.

- Fire ants - if you broadcast baits, apply your first treatment during the last week of April or the first week few weeks of May. Be sure to apply fresh bait, and do it at the correct time of day (fire ants only forage actively when the ground temperature is between 70 and 95 degrees F). (See Fire Ant Management in the Home Lawn for more information.)

- Lawn Establishment - if you plan to plant a warm-season (centipede, zoysia, Bermuda, St. Augustine) lawn, the best time to plant is in the spring and summer. If you are planting Bermuda by seed, use the hulled seed at this time of year (you can seed with unhulled seed in the fall). Wait until next fall for cool-season grasses (fescue). See Lawn Establishment for more information.

- Nutsedge or "nutgrass" - nutsedge is very difficult to control. There are two main types in our area - purple and yellow. You must identify which you have before you begin treatment. Herbicides must be applied when the nutsedge is actively growing, which means decent soil moisture and warm conditions. See Nutsedge for more information.

- Irrigation - you may begin irrigating late this month if we have a dry spring. See the Home and Garden Center's irrigation publications for more information, especially the publication on Irrigation Time of Day. Spring and fall are good times for disease to blossom, so do not allow your irrigation scheduling to increase these problems. One inch per week is the appropriate amount for most lawns and vegetables (except sweet corn and yellow squash, which may require up to two inches depending on growth stage). Include rainfall in this amount, and see How Much Water to determine how much water you are actually applying.

Ponds

- Pond fertilization - if your pond needs fertilization this month is a good time. Do not fertilize within 4 to 6 weeks of liming the pond. See Fertilizing Recreational Fish Ponds for more information.

Trees

- Tree fertilization - April is a good month to fertilize trees. See Fertilizing Trees and Shrubs for more information.

Vegetables

- Vegetables - There is a lessening chance of frost in April (see SC Frost Dates), so many folks want to get an early start on the vegetable garden. Some planting times for more common vegetables (see Planning a Garden for a full list and planting depths and spacings):

- o Cantaloupe - Apr. 15 - May 15
- o Cucumbers - Apr. 15 - May 15
- o Melons - Apr. 20 - Jun. 30
- o Squash - Apr. 15 - May 15
- o Snap, Pole, & Half-runner beans - Apr. 15 - 30
- o Sweet corn - Apr. 15 - 30

All pamphlets referenced in this calendar may be found online: <http://www.clemson.edu/hgic>.

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

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4PM | LAURENS APRIL 15
CLINTON APRIL 16



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CLINTON

APRIL 16; 5PM

LAURENS

APRIL 23; 5PM



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Clinton Branch Library
107 Jacobs Highway, #A
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Laurens County Ag+Art Tour 2024: Tour Site Lineup

Laurens County – This year marks the first time that Visit Laurens County SC, the tourism arm of Laurens County, operating under the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce (LCCC) and in conjunction with Laurens County Administration and Laurens County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, will host the Laurens County Ag+Art Tour planned for June 29-30, 2024, 9 am to 4 pm each day. Free & Open to the Public.

The South Carolina Ag+Art Tour, led by Clemson Extension, is the nation's largest free, self-guided farm tour showcasing local artisans and farms. It offers a firsthand look at food sources, art demonstrations, unique shopping opportunities, and rural life insights. With over 85,000 visitors since its 2012 inception, it's recognized nationally for its role in rural revitalization, farm-art collaboration, and agricultural education.

Committee co-chairs Christian Taylor, LCCC Tourism Marketing Manager, and Courtney Stonell, Keep Laurens County Beautiful Affiliate Coordinator, expressed their enthusiasm, "We're excited to unveil the lineup of participating farms for this year's tour. We

hope everyone across Laurens County and South Carolina will participate in this incredible opportunity to explore the beauty of agriculture and art in Laurens County!"

Saturday, June 29 Tour Site Locations 9am – 4pm:

- Barefoot Acres
- BioWay Farm
- Dixieland Farm
- LushAcres
- Laurens County Museum
- Waitmans Garlic at Blackberry Hill Farm
- Will Do Jersey Farm

Sunday, June 30 Tour Site Locations 9am-4pm :

- Laurens County Museum
- Waitmans Garlic at Blackberry Hill Farm
- Will Do Jersey Farm

Vendors applications are open through Monday, April 15. Handcrafted items such as food, pottery, paintings and more are welcome. If you're interested, apply at www.agandarttour.com/for-artisans. Please note, there is a \$25 booth fee for both days of the event.

For more details on each site, visit <https://www.agandarttour.com/laurens>, and for the latest updates and behind-the-scenes peeks at the farm sites and artisans participating in the tour, be sure to follow us on Facebook @Ag and Art Tour Laurens County.

www.agandarttour.com/laurens

AG+ART TOUR LAURENS COUNTY

farm tours | hayrides | vendor market | pet farm animals

9AM - 4PM

JUNE 29

BAREFOOT ACRES ♫ BIOWAY FARM ♫ LUSHACRES
DIXIELAND FARM ♫ JOE R. ADAIR OUTDOOR CENTER

JUNE 29-30

LAURENS COUNTY MUSEUM ♫ WILL DO JERSEY FARM
WAITMAN'S GARLIC AT BLACKBERRY HILL FARM

JUNE 29-30, 2024

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