



Resources for Successful Gardeners

When you are **ready to dig deeper into gardening**, you'll find Mecklenburg County Extension Master Gardeners' favorite resources for Southern Piedmont gardeners here. Some are local to Charlotte and the greater Mecklenburg area of North Carolina; others are university and government websites. All sites offer research-based horticultural information for the home gardener in keeping with the educational outreach mission of Master Gardeners. Listings here do not constitute our endorsement of any product, service, or venue. Please [contact us](#) if you run into a faulty site link. We'll be adding and updating, so check back often. Happy Gardening!

The More You Know, the More You Can Grow!

North Carolina State University (NCSU) Extension Service [Lawn and Garden Portal](#)
[NCSU Extension Gardener™](#) online gardening quarterly newsletter
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Botanical Garden on Plants and Gardening [Plants and Gardening](#)
Alabama Extension Service at Auburn [Gardening Resources Portal](#)
Clemson Extension Service [Landscape Plants and Lawns Portal](#)
Cornell University [Gardening Resources Portal](#)
Oregon State University [Gardening Publications Portal](#)
University of Delaware Botanic Gardens [Plant Information](#)
[USDA on Gardening](#)
[U.S. National Arboretum Gardening Page](#)
[Auburn University Landscape Horticulture Portal](#)
University of Georgia (UGA) Extension Service [Lawn and Garden Portal](#) for Information/Publications
[National Gardening Association](#) (NGA) - nonprofit organization dedicated to plant-based education for youth and providing the general public with gardening information
[USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN BASICS

[Basic Principles of Landscape Design](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Elements and Principles of Landscape Design](#) from Texas A&M Extension Service
[Detailed Guide to Sustainable Landscape Design](#) from University of Minnesota
[Water-Wise Landscaping](#) - Principles of Landscape Design from Colorado State Extension Service
[Residential Landscape Design](#) from Alabama A&M and Auburn Extension Service
[Developing the Landscape Plan](#) from University of Missouri Extension Service
[Plant Selection and Landscape Design Guide](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Environmentally Responsible Gardening](#) Practices from UNC Botanical Gardens
[Conservation Gardening](#) - Sustainable Practices for a Healthy Landscape from UNC Botanical Garden
[NGA Plant Finder](#)
[Residential Landscaping](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Landscaping Links](#) from NCSU Extension Service
Clemson Extension Service [Selections on Landscaping](#)
[Plants for Shade](#) from Clemson Extension Service
[Sustainable Residential Landscape Design](#) from American Society of Landscape Architects

PLANT SELECTION FROM TREES AND SHRUB TO PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS

[Perennials](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Annuals](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Trees](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Shrubs](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Vines](#) for the Southeast from NCSU Extension Service
[Groundcovers](#) from NCSU Extension Service

[Selecting Trees](#) for Your Home from University of Illinois Extension Service
[Selecting Shrubs](#) for Your Home from University of Illinois Extension Service
[Southern Tree Fact Sheets](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
Duke University [Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of NC](#)
Facts about [Tree Management](#) from Charlotte City Arborist
Virginia Tech [Tree Identification](#)
[Arbor Day Foundation](#) Tree Information Portal

NATIVE PLANTS

[Going Native](#) - Urban Landscaping with Native Plants from NCSU Extension Service
[Native Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[NC Native Plant Society](#)
National [Native Plant Information Network](#) (NPIN) from University of Texas at Austin Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
[Native Plants for NC](#) from NPIN
[Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Going Native](#) from UNC Botanical Gardens
[Native Plants of N. Georgia](#) - A Photo Guide for Enthusiasts from UGA Extension Service
[Native Plants for Georgia](#) - Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines from UGA Extension Service
[Native Plants for Your Backyard](#) from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
[Using Native Plants](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Center for Plant Conservation](#)
[Landscaping with Native Plants](#) from EPA
[Plant Conservation Alliance](#) (consortium of federal government agencies and non-governmental organizations) on native plants
[Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Your Garden](#) from UNC Botanical Gardens
[Native Wildflowers, Ferns, Grasses, and Sedges for Your Garden](#) from UNC Botanical Gardens

EDIBLE GARDENING - VEGETABLES, FRUIT, AND HERBS

NCSU Department of Horticulture Portal for [Vegetable Gardening](#)
NCSU Extension Service [Home Vegetable Gardening](#)
[Vegetable Fact Sheets](#) from Clemson Extension Service
[Vegetable Growers' Handbook](#) from Texas A&M University Extension Service
[Earth-Kind Problem Solver Guide](#) for gardeners from Texas A&M University Extension Service
[Mulches for Home Vegetable Garden](#) from Virginia Tech Extension Service
[Herb and Vegetable Containers](#) from University of Illinois Extension Service
[Growing Vegetables Organically](#) from UGA Extension Service
[Traveler Heirloom Tomato](#) from University of Arkansas Extension Service
[Southeastern Vegetable Guide](#) 2009 from NCSU, Auburn, and UGA

LAWNS

[NCSU Turf Files](#) - complete website for lawns in NC
[Carolina Lawns](#) - a Guide to Maintaining Quality Turf in the Landscape from NCSU Extension Service
[How to Calibrate Your Sprinkler System](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Landscape Irrigation System Audit Procedures](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Organic Lawn Care](#) - a Guide to Lawn Maintenance and Pest Management for NC
[Caring for Your Lawn and the Environment](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Grasscycling](#) from Mecklenburg County, NC

BIRDS, BEES, BUTTERFLIES, AND OTHER POLLINATORS AND GARDEN DENIZENS

[Managing Backyards and Other Urban Habitat for Birds](#) from NCSU Extension
[Building Songbird Houses](#) from NCSU Extension Forestry
[Flowers that Attract Hummingbirds](#) from NCSU Extension
[All About Birds](#) - Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Guide
[Audubon Bird Guide](#)
[Pollinator Conservation Guide](#) from Chatham County Extension Service
[Butterflies in Your Backyard](#) from NCSU Extension Forestry
[Selecting Plants for Pollinators](#) from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the PCA, NAPPC, and U.S. Forest Service
[Native Pollinators](#) from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Gardening for Native Bees](#) from USDA
[Native Bees](#) - Alternative Pollinators from ATTRA
[Bees](#) - Identification, Benefits, and Controls UGA Extension Service
[Carolina Raptor Center](#)
[Amphibians and Reptiles](#) of NC from Davidson University
[Bats in the Garden](#)
[Entomology](#) for NC Master Gardeners from NCSU Extension Service

PLANT PROPAGATION TO PRUNING: HOW-TO'S FOR HORTICULTURAL TECHNIQUES

[Complete Guide to Plant Propagation](#) from University of MN Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series with excellent links and resources
[Home Propagation Techniques](#) from N. Dakota State University Extension Service
[Plant Propagation](#) - Basic Principles and Methodology from NCSU Extension Service
[Propagating House Plants](#) from UGA Extension Service
[Propagation of Landscape Plants](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Plant Propagation Links](#) from seeds to cuttings and more from NCSU Extension Service
[Basic Landscape Plant Propagation](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Complete Plant Propagation Workshop](#) from University of Florida Extension Service
[Home Propagation of Garden Plants](#) from University of Missouri Extension Service
[How to Propagate Perennials](#) from NPIN
[How to Prune a Tree](#) from NPIN
[How to Transplant Perennials](#) from NPIN
[How to Transplant Bareroot Plants](#) from NPIN

PESTS AND PLANT DISEASE MANAGEMENT

[Biointensive Integrated Pest Management](#) from ATTRA
Landscaping Plants [Rated by Deer Resistance](#) from Rutgers University
[NCSU Plant Disease and Insect Clinic](#) to diagnose plant problems for gardeners
[Tomato Diseases and Disorders](#) from Iowa State Extension Service
[Causes of Blossom Drop in Tomatoes](#) from Rutgers Extension Service
[Tomato Insect Pests](#) from Clemson Extension Service
EPA on [Integrated Pest Management](#) Principles
[Integrated Pest Management for Homeowners](#) from University of Delaware Extension Service
How Homeowners [Reduce Use of Chemical Pesticides](#) using Integrated Pest Management from University of Missouri Extension
Saving Our Trees from [Fall Cankerworms](#) from Charlotte City Arborists
[Insects and Diseases of Fruits and Vegetables](#) Clemson Extension Service
[Homeowner Fungicide Guide](#) with Organic Strategies from UGA Extension Service
[Baking Soda as a Fungicide](#) from NCAT Sustainable Agriculture Project

CONSERVATION AND GREENSCAPE RESOURCES

[Backyard Conservation](#) from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
[Greenscaping](#) - the Easy Way to Greener, Healthier Yard from EPA
[Green Landscaping](#) from EPA
[NC Office of Environmental Education](#)
[Conservation in Urban and Suburban Areas](#)
[Conservation Tips](#) for the Garden and Lawn from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
[Plant Conservation](#) for Gardeners from the Center for Plant Conservation

SOIL, COMPOSTING, VERMICULTURE, AND FERTILIZERS - BUILD HEALTHY SOIL FOR HEALTHY PLANTS

[Building Healthy Soil](#) from Virginia Tech Extension Service
[Building Soil with Organic Amendments](#) from University of Wisconsin
[Environmental Horticulture Guide](#) to Nutrient Management and Healthy Soil from Virginia Tech Extension Service
[Fertilizers](#) from Clemson Extension Service
[Backyard Composting](#) from EPA
[Composting Information Portal](#) from EPA
[Composting at Home](#) from University of Illinois Extension Service
[How to Build a Compost Bin](#) from University of Missouri Extension Service

[Backyard Composting](#) from Mecklenburg County
[Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Composting Classes](#)
[Composting with Red Wigglers](#) - Vermiculture Basics
[Wormshop](#) - How Worms Transform Your Kitchen Scraps to Garden Gold from Mecklenburg County, NC
[Mecklenburg County Land and Water Resources](#)
[NPK Values of Organic Fertilizers](#) from Oregon State Extension Service
[Soil Testing from NC Department of Agriculture](#)
[Why Test Your Soil and Requesting Soil Test Kit](#) from Mecklenburg County, NC
[Fertilizer Basics](#) from University of Delaware Extension Service
[Understanding Your Soil Test Report](#) from NCSU Extension Service

INVASIVE PLANTS

[Invasive Plants of the Southeast](#) from SE-EPPC
[Alternatives to Invasive Plants](#) from U.S. National Arboretum
[Invasive and Exotic Plants](#) from Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
[What Is an Invasive Plant?](#) from PCA
[Invasive Plant Fact Sheets](#) with control information from USDA National Invasive Species Information Center
[Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas](#) from PCA
[Invasive Exotic Plants of NC](#)
[NC Exotic Pest Plant Council](#)

GARDENING FOR KIDS AT HOME OR SCHOOL

[School Gardening](#) resources including curriculum and grant sources from NGA
Using School Gardens in [Closing the Achievement Gap](#) from CA State Education and Environment Roundtable
[The Child in the Garden](#) - an Evaluative Review of the Benefits of School Gardening by Dorothy Blair, Penn State University, College of Health and Human Development
[Last Child in the Woods](#) - Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

METROLINA COMMUNITY GARDENS

[Charlotte Green of Mecklenburg County, Inc.](#) - private, non-profit group organized to assist interested and well-organized community groups to develop and sustain gardens in their neighborhoods
[Registry of Mecklenburg Community Gardens](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Community Garden Plot Rentals](#) from Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department

MASTER GARDENERS

[NC Master Gardeners Volunteer Association](#)
[Master Gardeners across the U.S.](#) from NCSU Extension Service
[Junior Master Gardeners](#) national program from Texas A&M Extension Service
[Master Gardener Course Hot Links](#) from University of Illinois Extension Service
[Master Gardener Manual](#) University of Arizona Extension Service

GARDENS TO VISIT

[Mecklenburg Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens](#) at Freedom and Independence Parks in Charlotte, NC
[Wing Haven & Elizabeth Lawrence Gardens](#) in Charlotte, NC
[UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens](#) in Charlotte, NC
[J. C. Raulston Arboretum](#) in Raleigh, NC
[McGill Rose Garden](#) in Charlotte, NC
[Sara P. Duke Gardens](#) in Durham, NC
[Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden](#) in Belmont, NC
[Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden](#) in Bishopville, SC
[NC Botanical Garden](#) at UNC Chapel Hill, NC
[State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#) in Athens, GA
[U.S. National Arboretum](#)
[Arboretum of New Hanover County](#)
[Airlie Gardens](#) in Wilmington, NC
[Botanical Gardens at Asheville](#)
[Cape Fear Botanical Gardens](#) near Fayetteville, NC

[Elizabethan Gardens](#) in Manteo, NC
[Hahn Horticulture Garden](#) at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA
[Juniper Level Botanic Garden](#) near Raleigh, NC
[NC Arboretum](#) near Asheville, NC
[Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden](#) in Kernersville, NC
[Reynolda Gardens](#) of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC
[Sandhills Horticultural Gardens](#) in Pinehurst, NC

HERBARIA

[NCSU Department of Botany Herbarium](#) for Carolinas
[Duke University Herbarium](#)
[UNC Chapel Hill Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States](#)

GARDEN & COMMUNITY GROUPS

[American Horticulture Society](#)
[Garden Club of America](#)
[Garden Club of NC](#)
[NC Native Plant Society](#)
[NC Wildlife Federation Habitat and Wildlife Keepers](#)
[Slow Food Charlotte](#)
[Farm-to-School NC](#)
[Charlotte Community Gardens Can You Dig It 2010](#)
[Mecklenburg County Fruit and Vegetable Coalition](#)
[Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs](#)

METROLINA FARMERS MARKETS

[Davidson Farmers Market](#)
[Matthews Community Farmers Market](#)
[Charlotte Regional Farmers Market](#) on Yorkmont Road
[Atherton Market](#) at Atherton Mill

NON-COMMERCIAL PLANT AND GARDEN SUPPLY SOURCES

Check this list for seasonal plant sales by nonprofit organizations.
[Mecklenburg County Mulch & Compost Sales](#)
[Mecklenburg County Rain Barrel Sales](#)

GARDENING EDUCATION

Be sure to look [here](#) for our Mecklenburg Master Gardener events, seminars, workshops, and classes.
[UNC Charlotte Native Plant Certification Program](#)
[Wing Haven Garden Events and Classes for Children](#)
[Wing Haven Garden Classes for Adults](#)
[Annual Davidson Horticultural Symposium](#)
[CPCC Horticultural Program](#)
[Fall 2011 Composting Classes](#) from Mecklenburg County, NC
[CPCC Center for Sustainability](#)