

Anson Farm and Garden

Horticulture and Forestry in Anson County, NC

September 2021

INSIDE

Scuppernongs vs Muscadines

September Honey Month

Kudzu

2021 Outstanding Farmer of the Year

Anson Farm and Garden focuses on 3 main topics: residential horticulture, land use/ownership, and small farm management. If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter....

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For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me no later than five business days before the event.

Scuppernongs are Muscadines, but not all Muscadines are Scuppernongs

The muscadine *Vitis rotundifolia*, is a native grape found in the southeastern and south-central U.S. Both dark, and bronze muscadine varieties are found in the wild. Dark purple grapes are usually termed 'bullis' while the bronze varieties are termed 'scuppernongs' after the area they were found in 1760. Did you know scuppernongs are the official state fruit of NC? Manteo, NC is home to the oldest known cultivated scuppernong in the U.S., affectionately known as the "Mother Vine", which is over 400 years old. Today, the term scuppernong is commonly used for all bronze grapes, though after 100 years of breeding there are +100 improved cultivars for both dark and bronze varieties to produce fresh juice/wine and/or fresh-market grapes.



You have to try Anson County's "Hildreth's Best Muscadines". Located in Wadesboro, NC. The Hildreths have grown muscadines for over 40 years. With six varieties managed on an 8 acre vineyard, you can find Hildreth's Best products mid-August to early October each season at the following locations: Peaches n' Cream in Wadesboro, The Berry Patch in Ellerbe, Mangum's Produce in Pageland, or simply visit Hildreth Farms off 52N in Wadesboro for fresh-picked muscadines. The farm is open 10am-6pm Aug. 21-early Oct. Mark & Terina Hildreth can be reached on 'Hildreth Farms' Facebook messenger, 704-694-6350 or 704-690-0328.

ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and 101 local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee translate research-based education from our state's land-grant universities, NC State and N.C. A&T, into everyday solutions. Extension specializes in agriculture, youth, communities, food, health and the environment by responding to local needs.

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University are collectively committed to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

September is Honey Month

For those that love all things honey, bees, and beekeeping, September is Honey Month, to promote US beekeeping, the beekeeping industry, and honey production. One-third of the average person's diet in the U.S. is derived from insect pollinated plants. Honey bees are responsible for about 80% of that process! While they are busy this month producing late summer honey, now is a great time to pay homage to honey bees, beekeepers, and the role they play in pollinating crops for human consumption.

Beekeeper Certification -

I've gotten a few questions about how to become a certified beekeeper, and what that even means. One does not have to be a certified beekeeper nor are there required permits or ordinances related to beekeeping in Anson County. Anyone can aspire to become a beekeeper without certification which is offered through the NC State Beekeepers Association. In fact, NC has more hobby beekeepers than any other state. There is increasing interest in managing honeybees to improve garden yields, increase pollinator populations, produce local honey, or involve the family in a new activity.



Nancy Ruppert, NCD&CS Regional Apiary Inspector, inspecting a hive in Ansonville, NC, April 2021.
Photo credit: Aimee Colf

The term "certified" beekeeper relates to levels within the Master Beekeeper Program under the NC State Beekeepers Association. Within the Master Beekeeper Program are 4 levels: Certified, Journeyman, Master, and Master Craftsman Beekeeper. Advancing through each level consists of written, hand-on practicals, field and oral exams, plus public service and sub-specialties. Refer to the NC State Beekeepers Association to learn more, www.ncbeekeepers.org, plus see their information on the upcoming 2021 Fall Meeting Nov. 19-20 at the Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

- Do I need to register my hives with NCD& CS?
NCD&CS registration is not required for the average hobbyist but is advised for apiaries near areas likely to contract aerial pesticide applications. The benefit of registration is that owners of registered hives (within 1 mile of treated site) are notified of planned aerial applications labeled as "toxic" to honey bees. NCD&CS registration is \$10/apiary.
www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/Plant/apiary/documents/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf
- An NCD&CS permit to sell honey bees is not required for (1) the sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, (2) a one-time going-out-of-business sale of less than 50 beehives.
- Regional apiary inspector, Nancy Ruppert (pictured above at an apiary in Ansonville, April 2021), may inspect bees at the request of a beekeeper on a first-come, first-serve basis, contingent on weather and inspector's schedule. Inspections check for disease, pest levels, and overall hive condition.
- Pesticide applicators registered with BeeCheck or DriftWatch receive automated email notifications for each new hive or specialty crop site that is listed in their area. This program enables pesticide applicators to know where these sensitive locations are in relation to target spray areas. The intent is to reduce off-target exposure and encourage personal dialogue between neighbors so concerns are reduced. This program is voluntary and non-regulatory. It is intended for beekeepers and commercial agriculture producers.

Upcoming (in-person) Beekeeping Classes:

- Union County Beekeeping Chapter Beginners School: Oct. 4-Nov.29. Six in-person classes Mondays 7-9pm. Cost: \$70. Where: Union Co. Special Events Center, 307 Cultivation Circle, Monroe, NC 28112
<https://www.ucncbeekeepers.org/beginning-bee-school>
- Union County Cooperative Extension BEES Academy: Sat. Oct. 2 and Sun. Oct. 3 at the Union County Agriculture Center 3230 Pession Rd., Monroe, NC 28112. Perfect prep opportunity for the Journeyman Beekeepers Exam!
<https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/bees-academy-home>

Managing Invasive Weeds: Kudzu

Q: We live next to an empty wooded lot. We've been here 14 years and have been battling kudzu and watched it overcome and kill tree after tree. I go out in January every year and cut countless vines thinking I can stop the advance for the coming year but it doesn't seem to help. Is there a heavy duty spray that can be purchased to kill the vines? If so, where can I buy it?

A: It is just about impossible to contain kudzu, particularly if it originates from adjacent property. The entire patch would need to be treated to have any chance of eradication. Kudzu has large tuber-like roots, which means even if it is knocked-back hard with herbicide it will come back until those stored carbohydrates are depleted. The quickest solution is a combination of mechanical and chemical control. Clear the site, identify the crowns, have the multitude of kudzu roots plucked out of the ground with a skid steer, and scout/spray any remaining sprouts missed in the following seasons to starve those roots. Short of that, it will take years with just herbicide, and that's if you have access to the whole lot.

If you don't want to clear the trees then kudzu can eventually be controlled with glyphosate, generic Round-up, over a period of years. Sever climbing vines, mow or weed-eat surface level vines to reveal the crown of the plant (where it's sprouting from). Allow new growth to sprout and spray with a 5% glyphosate solution with surfactant. Surfactants are a sticker solution to help the herbicide adhere to the leaf better. There should be instructions on the glyphosate label regarding surfactant rate. Mowing is recommended because new, tender, leafy growth is more vulnerable to herbicide absorption. If mowing is not possible just be aware that damage to non-target plants is more likely because more herbicide would be utilized and potentially more aerosol particulates traveling in the air volatilizing to contact non-target plants. One could also cut back in the winter as you indicated and start spraying early in the season as new shoots appear. Monitor root crowns annually and retreat as needed. Glyphosate and surfactants are easy to find at Tractor Supply or Southern States.

If you're interested in biological control, the indiscriminate palate of goats can offer temporary relief from kudzu during the growing season, essentially acting as mowers.

2021 Outstanding Farm of the Year

Anson County is home to over 400 farmers who grow food and fiber. For the independence it offers, farming offers no sick leave or paid days off. It does, however, instill ingenuity, humility, leadership, stewardship, problem-solving, and sheer happiness, on top of all the frustrations and difficulties typical of farming. Each farm has a unique story. This year we highlight Peachland, NC farmer, Chad Horne. He raises black Angus cows and sells grass-fed beef from his cattle. He raises meat goats, chickens for Perdue, and sells honey from his apiary. Find out more about Chad Horne, his operation, farm products, and contributions to community service here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUZaVF3WBxw>



Pictured above is Chad Horne on his farm in Peachland.
Photo credit: Aimee Golf