

General Gardening Practices

Clemson Extension Service

- Corner of Broad and Prince St; Mon – Fri, 8:30 – 4:30
- Sue manages office and gets things done 546 4481
- Nancy Hart, Monday morning and Gary Forrester, Tuesday morning
- All kinds of samples: soil, pH, water, plant material, pests of all kinds, plant I.D.

Before Fertilizing or Applying Chemicals

- Have soil test; includes pH (most important) & nutrients plus recommendations
 - Excessively high or low pH ties up nutrients no matter how much you fertilize
 - Excessive fertilizer encourages foliage growth with less flowering and fruit
 - Excessive fertilizer encourages pests, diseases and fungus
- Have pests identified and recommended treatment
 - Apply pesticides on pests and try not to treat your entire yard
 - Pest control is the objective not complete elimination
 - Over treatment poisons beneficial insects and soil bacteria and can be dangerous
 - Beneficial insects and soil bacteria are essential in Nature's balance

Watering and Irrigation (get a rain gage and consider a moisture meter)

- Only water when needed based on checking soil or experience
- Over watering encourages pests & fungus plus roots suffocate in standing water
- Root rot is usually terminal
- Water early to reduce risk of funguses
- Do not water shrub foliage to reduce risk of funguses

Trees

- Best time to plant and transplant trees is during their dormant season
- Plant with top of roots just below soil level; roots need oxygen
- Water newly planted trees to keep soil moist but not wet
- Tree stabilizer support cables should not cut into tree and should be loose
- Prune near to trunk or larger limb but do not cut into collar & do not leave stub

Fire Ants

- Typically form mounds; and small, medium and larger ants work together
- Typically forage in good weather and not the hottest part of the day
- Always treat initially with fresh pesticides labeled "Bait"; follow label instructions
- "Contact" fire ant pesticides can state that they kill the queen because they "may" if enough ants contact the product and if enough then contact the queen
- This threatens the colony so colony and queen move plus start a second colony