

April yard, garden tips

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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/fire-blight-of-fruit-trees/>" 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/brown-patch-large-patch-diseases-of-lawns/>" Brown Patch Disease of Lawn and Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/leaf-diseases-of-lawns/>" Leaf Diseases of Lawns for more information.

•Chinch bugs - watch for chinch bugs in your warm season lawn. See Hyperlink "<http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/turforn/chinchbugsto20.html>" 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 Hyperlink "http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/turforn/white_grub_management_in_turfgrass09.html" 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/insect-pests-of-sweet-corn/>" Insect Pests of Sweet Corn and Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/cucumber-squash-melon-other-cucurbit-insect-pests/>" Cucumber, Squash, Melon and Other Cucurbit Insect Pests for more information.

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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/summer-and-fall-flowering-bulbs/>" Summer- and Fall-Flowering Bulbs for more information.

•Dividing - it's time to divide fall blooming perennials. See Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/dividing-perennials/>" Dividing Perennials for more information.

Fruits

Spray fruit trees - it's time to begin spraying your fruit trees with a fungicide (Captan, etc.) every

seven to 10 days to provide the beautiful fruit you look forward to. Do not use any insecticides on the trees until less than 10 percent 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/fertilizing-lawns/>" 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 Hyperlink "<http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/turforn/fireantmanagementinthelawn106.html>" 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/lawn-establishment/>" 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/nutsedge/>" 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/tag/irrigation/>" irrigation publications for more information, especially the publication on Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/landscape-irrigation-management-part-5-irrigation-time-of-day/>" 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 Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/landscape-irrigation-management-3/>" 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 four to six weeks of liming the pond. See Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/fertilizing-recreational-fish-ponds/>" Fertilizing Recreational Fish Ponds for more information.

Trees

Tree fertilization - April is a good month to fertilize trees. See Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/fertilizing-trees-shrubs/>" Fertilizing Trees and Shrubs for more information.

Vegetables

Vegetables - There is a lessening chance of frost in April (see Hyperlink "<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/laurens/yardgarden/15frostdates.html>" S.C. Frost Dates), so many folks want to get an early start on the vegetable garden. Some planting times for more common vegetables (see Hyperlink "<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/planning-a-garden/>" Planning a Garden for a full list and planting depths and spacings):

•Cantaloupe — April 15 - May 15

•Cucumbers — April 15 - May 15

•Melons — April 20 - Jun. 30

•Squash — April 15 - May 15

•Snap, Pole, and Half-runner beans — April 15 - 30

•Sweet corn — April 15 - 30

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

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Photo by Judith Brown

PEACHES — Clemson Extension Agent Bryan Smith, right, presented the Special Commodity Producer of the year award to T.J. Coggins, left, and Tommy Coggins, center. The Coggins family brought their long-dormant peach farm brought back into production in 2004 and has expanded from 300 trees to 900 trees in 20 different varieties.

South Carolina wildlife student essay contest deadline is April 30

If you are a college or high school student who enjoys the outdoors, why not enter the 2019 South Carolina Wildlife magazine outdoor writing contest? The deadline is 5 p.m. on April 30.

South Carolina Wildlife (SCW) magazine is proud to announce its inaugural personal essay contest which aims to feature the best college and high school nature writing. Essays should be nonfiction, with a focus on the outdoors, and between 800 and 1,500 words. The winner will receive a \$250 prize, made possible by the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund, and publication on the SouthCarolinaWild.org website and in South Carolina Wildlife magazine during 2019. The top five submissions will be featured on SouthCarolinaWild.org.

The SCW Essay Contest seeks stories which celebrate South Carolina's natural resources, have a strong sense of place and use descriptive language. Similarly, we like stories about wildlife, landscape and outdoor activities with a refreshing perspective on

nature/the outdoors. The contest is open to currently enrolled college and high school students. The SCW Essay Contest is unable to accept simultaneous submissions. SCW only accepts original, unpublished work.

All submissions should be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font. Finally, please include a cover page with your name, address, email, phone number and high school or university. SCW judges look forward to reading your best writing!

2019 judges include the staff of

South Carolina Wildlife magazine and a panel of SCW freelance writers.

Submissions or questions should be sent by email to SCW magazine Managing Editor, Cindy Thompson, thompsonc@dnr.sc.gov. The deadline is 5 p.m. on April 30.

Celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, South Carolina Wildlife magazine is the flagship publication of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources scwildlife.com. SouthCarolinaWild.org is SCW's digital magazine for college and high school students.

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