

Gardening News

MYCOTOXINS THREATEN NORTH CAROLINA CORN CROPS

Mycotoxins, toxic chemicals produced by fungi, were a top concern for corn farmers at a recent field day at Upper Coastal Plain Research Station's Fountain Farm in Rocky Mount, N.C.

The fungal infection is exacerbated by frequent rainfall and high humidity. Corn farmers are encouraged to control mycotoxins by maintaining good pH, using Bt hybrids, and adding irrigation if necessary.

Experts in attendance asked growers to conduct field samplings each year and identify the presence of mold at the tip or base of the corn. Farmers should have any suspicious samples analyzed for mycotoxins, which can be harmful to livestock and humans.

SOUTHERN PIEDMONT FARM SCHOOL GIVES A BOOST TO ASPIRING FARMERS

The N.C. Cooperative Extension offers four farm schools throughout the state each spring. The Southern Piedmont school is a seven-month program that focuses on business planning, financial management and sustainable farming methods. The school also includes field trips to area farms.

The program began in Davidson County in 2012 and is currently conducting its spring semester. Participants learn about growing fruits and vegetables, raising livestock and agritourism.



NORTH CAROLINA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION HONORS FIVE COMPANIES

Five green industry businesses received the 2014 Excellence in Landscape Awards at NCNLA's annual Green & Growin' Trade Show held January 2015 in Greensboro, NC:

Appalachian Naturescapes,
Morganton, NC
Landscape Installation Residential and Design/Build Residential

Greenleaf Services, Linville, NC
Landscape Installation Residential

Coats Lawn Service, Inc.,
Clayton, NC
Landscape Installation Residential

Landvision, Raleigh, NC
Design/Build Residential

PLI Co., Garner, NC
Landscape Installation Commercial

FORSYTH COUNTY 4-H STUDENTS SUCCEED AT NATIONALS

The Forsyth County 4-H team placed sixth in the National Junior Horticulture Association competition. The students demonstrated their knowledge of horticultural crops and answered questions about the art and science of crop production. The test included sections on horticultural knowledge, judging, and identification.

The team included Hope Arrowood of Lexington, Samuel Barrick of Winston-Salem, Kade Henderson of Winston-Salem, and Jacob Kline of Pilot Mountain, N.C.

MONARCH ABILITY GARDEN RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Monarch, a nonprofit organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout North Carolina, recently received an award for its community garden. The garden earned the "Partnering in Action" award from Eastern Carolina Behavioral Health.

The ½-acre garden in New Bern, N.C., is designed to build community and encourage physical and emotional health through gardening. It was designed by North Carolina architect John Lucas and is one of three gardens that Monarch operates throughout the state.

"The garden is a way to build community and inclusion of people with and without disabilities through existing partnerships with agencies like the Craven County Health Department and N.C. State University's Cooperative Extension Service," says Natasha A. Suber, director of marketing and communications for Monarch.

Local Eagle Scouts and Rotary Club members built raised beds for the garden and raised funds for its continued success. Monarch's garden was commended for its support of sustainable gardening and locally grown foods.



Photo credits: top photo courtesy of N.C. Cooperative Extension; bottom photo courtesy of Monarch.