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...e-news

Gardener's Corner

Ask Ruth: Planting A Wildflower Meadow



Dear Ruth,

Now that summer is here, I am already tired of mowing. Instead of mowing, I have decided to make a wildflower meadow. I have 1/2 to 3/4 acre to work with. Can I just sow the wildflower seed on top of

the grass?

~Derrick in Candler

Dear Derrick,

The answer is a resounding NO.

Unfortunately, making a meadow is a bit more complicated than tossing a few wildflower seeds on top of your grass. To be successful each seed needs to come in full contact with the bare soil. Taking the time to do it right will reward you with a meadow full of flowers that is beautiful to behold.

Farmer's Corner

Ask Tom: Burning Landscape Fabric



Landscape Fabric: "The Marriage Saver"

A few years ago farmer friends decided to relocate to South America and sold all their farm equipment, including several rolls of landscape fabric. I was curious about this material but too frugal to buy a whole roll. We tried it, found it very helpful, and now own enough to cover our market garden.

The term "landscape fabric" is applied to a variety of materials. [... READ MORE: READ This Month's FULL "Ask Tom" ARTICLE HERE.](#)

**Commercial Farmers:
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Additionally, your meadow will provide fabulous habitat for wildlife, beneficial insects and forage plants for pollinators – it's a win-win concept. Here are the basic steps and considerations.

Evaluate your site:

Your ideal site should have full sun at least 6 to 8 hours per day, good drainage is extremely important, and soil that is not heavily compacted. If you notice extra-weedy areas in your chosen meadow spot, consider relocating your meadow, because these areas will exert constant weed pressure on your meadow...

... READ MORE: READ this month's FULL "Ask Ruth" ARTICLE HERE.

Ruth Gonzalez is a former market farmer, gardener, local food advocate, and founder of the Tailgate Market Fan Club where she blogs at [Tailgate Market Fan Club](#). In her job at Reems Creek Nursery, Ruth offers advice on all sorts of gardening questions and benefits daily from the wisdom of local gardeners.

Ask Ruth © 2010 Ruth Gonzalez & Organic Growers School

**Gardeners:
Got a question for Ruth?**
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Thank you to our friends at Mountain Rose Herbs for your generous support of the Organic Growers School!
To find out more about the Growth Partners program, [click here.](#)


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September 30, 2012
The amphitheater at Highland Lake Cove
www.tedxkatuah.com

CRAFT Tour at Bluebird Farm!

CRAFT: Farmer Training ~ Peer Support ~ Resources ~ Roundtables ~ Workshops



On June 3rd we received a hearty welcome from William Lyons and Marie Williams of [Bluebird Farm](#) for our third CRAFT tour of the season. The tour topic was **Integrated Animal and Vegetable Production**.

William and Marie gave us a full tour and unique insight into their diversified farm operations sharing techniques for making your animals and vegetables work together. We are grateful for their time and generosity hosting us on their farm!

Bluebird farm is in its 5th season producing pastured-raised pork, chicken, lamb, eggs, and a variety of vegetables on 20 acres in Morganton. They sell their farm products through a 30-family CSA, and at

farmers markets in Concord and Hickory. . . . [READ MORE](#) about the CRAFT tour of Bluebird Farm and see [more photos here!](#)

Join CRAFT!


CRAFT



CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training) is a program of the Organic Growers School.

A year-round farmer training collaborative, CRAFT offers farmers and their interns networking and learning opportunities.

Membership is rolling, so join anytime! [For more information or to join, click here.](#)

Membership is open to beginning and experienced farmers, apprentices and farm workers, and anyone else who has a strong desire and drive to begin farming.

Training is done mainly through a series of on-farm tours held by experienced growers in the region. In addition to the tours, members receive a comprehensive CRAFT handbook, rich with regional information on all aspects of farming and much of the information is farmer generated, containing invaluable knowledge gained from many years of farming in the southeast Appalachians.

CRAFT also offers a series of winter workshops, both for beginning farmers and for experienced farmer members. These workshops are held as "roundtables" and are places for members to come together to discuss

such issues as production planning, record keeping, labor issues, etc. For CRAFT members just getting into farming, roundtables focus on business planning, loans, gaining access to land and capital, etc.

CRAFT membership fees are \$20 - \$30/year and give members access to a wealth of summer tours and winter workshops.

To learn more about CRAFT and to join: [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Cameron Farlow, OGS Farmer Programs Assistant at or email Cameron at: cameron@organicgrowersschool.org.

Businesses! Reach Organic Consumers and Growers



Gain exposure to OGS's community of organic gardeners, farmers, and consumers: connect with the Organic Growers School to discuss marketing opportunities for your business.

- Want to expose your business to foodies, farmers, and conscious consumers in the southeast? Advertise in the Organic Growers School E-newsletter! [Email us for more information.](#)
- Want to partner with OGS year-round and gain year-round exposure for your business? [Learn more about the Organic Growers School Growth Partner Program.](#)

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Donate! Make an instant tax-deductible contribution online or mail a check to: Organic Growers School, 788 Mount Hebron Road Old Fort, NC 28762.

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The Organic Growers School has just signed up to fundraise by recycling inkjet cartridges, cell phones and other small electronic with [Planet Green](#). [Check out this video](#) and help OGS help organic growers by recycling!

Most of us have these recyclable items sitting around our homes collecting dust and now you can recycle them and help us raise money at the same time. [Click here to find out more!](#)

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