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# Organic Growers School



Providing Organic Education Since 1993

## Events We Dig!

### Farm Dreams?

An Exploratory Workshop for Farm Dreamers

Saturday, November 22, 2014

[click here for more info & to register](#)



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828-338-9465



### Are You Dreaming of Starting Your Own Farm?

FARM DREAMS? WORKSHOP, BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

We're very excited to be offering a second session of our Farm Dreams? Workshop for all the farmers-to-be out there who are looking for some guidance and answers to their nuts-and-bolts farming questions. How much will it cost? Should I get a loan? How do I find land? We have these answers and more in our day-long Farm Dreams? Workshop.

**Date:** Saturday, November 22, 2014

**Time:** 10am-4:00pm

**Location:** Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

**Bring:** Brown bag lunch or plan to eat downtown Asheville.

**Cost:** \$55

**Stay Connected:** [Facebook Page](#)

**Register:** [Click here to register](#)

### SAVE THE DATE:

### Women in Agriculture

### Winter Gathering

ORGANIC GROWERS SCHOOL AND BLUE RIDGE WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE COME TOGETHER WITH WOMEN GROWERS, FARM(H)ERS, AND FARM/FOOD PROFESSIONALS TO CELEBRATE AND SHARE

A women-only event brought to you by Organic Growers School



and Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture. A relaxed, fun, one-day, celebratory style gathering with no specific theme. We will use "open-space" methods to create the conversations that suit us. Pot luck lunch, so bring your stories to share and a dish to pass!

**Date:** Saturday, December 6, 2014

**Time:** 10am

**Location:** TBD

**Cost:** Free

**Stay Connected:** [Facebook Page](#)

## SAVE THE DATE: 22nd Annual Spring Conference

THE SOUTHEAST'S LARGEST GRASSROOTS  
SUSTAINABILITY CONVERGENCE

Mark your calendars, eager growers! Planning is underway  
for your favorite growing conference!

Saturday & Sunday, March 7-8  
with Pre-Conference Workshops Friday March 6

registration available soon!



### Gardener's Corner

#### Ask Ruth



Dear Ruth,

*A question on my blueberry bushes. I scratched in some Hollytone the other day as my bushes are forming tons of berries and then I watered well. Now I have some dead branches and yellowed leaves and lots of leaves have fallen off? I have completely bare branches with just berries on them. What happened?*

Mary B.

Dear Mary,

It is hard to say exactly why your blueberry plants are defoliating (losing their leaves). Here are a couple of possibilities:

1. When you scratched in the fertilizer, you may have scratched too deeply and damaged the roots or burnt the roots with the fertilizer. Blueberries are shallow rooted, so be gentle when you scratch in fertilizer and be careful not to disturb the roots. Consider just watering in

### Farmer's Corner

#### Ask Tom



Dear Tom,

*You sell a lot of tomatoes. Do you preserve some each year? If so, what method of preservation do you use and how do you manage it all when so much is going on in the middle of the season?*

Paul in Pawpaw

Dear Paul –

I will leave to Extension the [details of the canning process](#) but I will be glad to share a few ideas that help us save some time in preserving the tomato harvest.

From a big picture perspective, canning kills potential pathogens with heat and then seals out oxygen and spores so the food does not spoil or make the consumers ill when containers are opened later. Botulism is a particularly bad actor because the spores of those bacteria resist heat treatment and they grow happily in the low oxygen environment of canned food. So please follow canning directions, especially when they call for adding acids like vinegar or lemon juice. That

supplements.

2. Did you apply the recommended amount of Holly-Tone? Always read the directions, and follow the recommended rate of the particular fertilizer you are using. You don't want to over-fertilize by accident and chance "burning" the plant. Acid-based fertilizers like Espoma Holly-Tone, Happy Frog Acid-Loving, Fertrell Holly Care, and Fertrell Berry Mix are good choices for blueberries whose ideal pH is a low 4.5...



[Read more at Our Blog](#)

**Gardeners: Got a question for Ruth? Email it to us at**

[enews@organicgrowersschool.org](mailto:enews@organicgrowersschool.org)

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addition helps make certain that the food in the canning jar is inhospitable to botulism growth. Heat resistant spores are not the problem as much as the nerve toxins that botulism bacteria produce as they grow in the jar. If all this talk of nasty critters is about to discourage you from even considering canning tomatoes, remember that of all the tomatoes that are canned each year, roughly ten cases of poisoning are reported to the CDC...



[Read more at Our Blog](#)

**Farmers: Got a question for Tom? Email it to us at**

[enews@organicgrowersschool.org](mailto:enews@organicgrowersschool.org)

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