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Organic Growers School



Providing Organic Education Since 1993

Farm Dreams?

Are You Ready to Stop Dreaming and Start Planning?

Farm Dreams?

Explore Your Vision



May 17, 2014
Buncombe County Extension
\$55

Turn your
dreams
into plans

Register at
Organic
Growers
School
www.organicgrowersschool.org

Farm Dreams?

An Exploratory Workshop for Farm Dreamers

Date: Saturday, May 17

Time: 10am-3:30pm

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

Bring: Brown bag lunch

Cost: \$55

Register: [Online here.](#)

Follow: [Facebook Event.](#)

Are you dreaming of starting your own farm? Farm Dreams? is an entry level, five-hour, exploratory workshop designed to help people who are seeking practical, common sense information on whether sustainable farming is the next step for them, and how to move forward. This is a great workshop to attend if you are in the exploratory stages of getting started farming.

[Meet the instructors here.](#)

Register Here!

Gardener's Corner

Ask Ruth

Dear Ruth,

I read and enjoyed your article on winter row

Farmer's Corner

Ask Tom

Hello Farmer Tom,

I like your "Organic Growers School" website.



covers. I have a terrible time with growing squash, especially winter squash. The vine borers always get to the plants well before harvest. I've read elsewhere how row covers can be used to protect squash from vine borers and other unfriendly insects. Is this true? I assume the same rod setup will be used during the winter or summer. But would I use the same Reemay as you used for

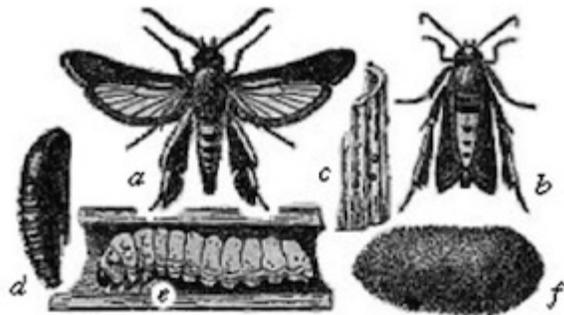
the winter during the summer, too? I live in western Maryland, zone 7. If I cannot use row covers can you recommend any natural products to keep vine borers away? Thank you.

*Sincerely,
Phil Palmer Middletown, MD*

Dear Phil,

I do love the easy season-extension system that you referenced! [Click here](#) for the article Phil mentioned.

First, let's check out the critter we are talking about. **The squash vine borer**, *Melittia cucurbitae*, is a segmented, cream colored caterpillar with a brown head. The borer measures about one inch long when full grown and looks grub-like. The squash vine borer **adult** is a clear-winged moth that is orange and dark grey with hairy back legs...



a, adult male with wings spread; b, female at rest; c, eggs on stem; d, pupa; e, full grown larva; f, pupal cell

[Read more at Our Blog](#)

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

enews@organicgrowersschool.org

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I am in the process of redoing landscaping and a garden on the property we just purchased and was wanting a safe landscaping fabric - NO Chemicals!!!. I read your blog about what you have had success with and was wondering what the company and product

name of the fabric and staples were. Also, where did you purchase them?

I especially liked the "hole burning" method as I am pulling up fabric that was cut and full of weeds! Nice idea!!! Please let me know about the materials. Thanks and God Bless!

Lori Scears (Pittsburgh, PA) PS - I used to live in Cary, NC - Miss that beautiful state :)

Dear Lori

Landscape fabric as I use the term refers to a woven geotextile in contrast to the felt-like material often called weed barrier. In my experience the woven material is much more durable and less prone to weeds germinating on top of the fabric and rooting in the soil below. The most common use for woven landscape fabric is as greenhouse floors or to suppress weeds in container nurseries...



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

enews@organicgrowersschool.org

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Purple Thumbs: Mistakes I've Learned From, Part I

with Ellen Rubenstein Chelmis



I'm writing this on the first day of spring, and I've got the urge for gardenin'! I'm more organized than ever:

- I've gathered all I need for the season,
- I made a schedule for what must be done and when through fall,
- and I have seeds sprouting under lights in my solarium, started the right number of weeks before Last Frost (this is only remarkable if you know that I ran two months late on everything almost all last year).

The kale starts are about 3" tall, and I'm just itchin' to put 'em out... but CAUTION!!! This is one of the easiest mistakes any gardener, novice or experienced, can make, and that is to PLANT TOO EARLY. I'm enthusiastic, my green babies sing "plant me!" every time I check them, and the sunshine outside is SO welcoming. But the generally accepted Last Frost date here in the Asheville area is around **Mother's Day**, though weather seems more unpredictable than ever these days. While some vegetables don't mind cold feet, I'm resisting the inclination to plant...

[Read more at Our Blog](#)

Cloud Storage and the Sustainability Dilemma

with Jennifer Miyakawa Cloke

The Organic Growers School is structured in a way that many small organizations are these days: we all work from home and rely on internet and conference calls for the kind of connectivity created by being in adjacent cubicles. According to a study cited in [this article](#) in the Atlantic, working from home increases productivity by 22%, and if trends are anything to go by, more and more employers are allowing their people to pull on a business-casual sweater over their jammies in the morning and telecommunte.

This system has its inherent challenges to be certain. In particular, we're finding at OGS that Staff Person 1 needs



Document A, but Document A exists only on Staff Person 2's laptop. So Person 1 has to take time to call Person 2 to get this document, and that only works if Person 2 is in

front of her computer and not in meetings or in the field all day. Or worse, Person 2 had that document on a flash drive which Person 2's toddler thought was a computer seed, so he planted it in the front yard and watered it really well and is now eagerly awaiting the first curly shoots of a computer tree.

Stranger things happen when you work from home...



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[Join Us for an Exploratory Workshop
for Farm Dreamers](#)

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