2nd Annual Harvest Conference
Featuring Local Wisdom

Harvest Conference Instructors
Saturday, September 12, 2015

Fall & Winter Growing Track

Extend the Growing Season
with Randal Pfleger

Growing Great Garlic!
with Christopher Fielden

Year-Round Growing
with Pat Battle

Cover Cropping for Home Gardens
with Laura Lengnick

---

Ask Ruth -- Gardening Column

Dear Ruth,
I have a large pasture that is visible to the road and have received comments about the area looking unkempt. I often leave the land ‘overgrown’ because it is full of milk weed and other plants that pollinators love. Can you suggest a compromise between providing habitat for pollinators and still maintaining the property?

From: Tim R., McDowell
Dear Tim,

That is a great question! I have lived on streets where I prayed the neighbors would mow the grass before my relatives came to visit... and I have been the person whose yard desperately needed attention – so I can sympathize with both perspectives in your question.

Things can be more relaxed out in the country, although some of my neighbors in Madison County kept the roadsides beyond their property mowed and "well kept" and the neighborhood appreciated their contribution.

One important fact – your pasture provides an essential service to pollinators. There is no doubt that pollinators need every possible piece of available habitat and more. Pollinator habitat (and wildlife habitat in general) is shrinking and becoming fragmented for multiple reasons.

Every time a new house is built, habitat diminishes. To make ends meet, financially-stressed farmers have maximized field sizes to the very edge – which results in narrowed field borders i.e. reduced habitat. The cost of gasoline (until recently) has led to increased ethanol production which means growing more corn.

Most of the corn grown in the USA is Roundup Ready corn which is genetically engineered to withstand multiple herbicide sprays. Pollinator habitat that normally would have grown up in the crop rows or along the borders is eliminated.
Self-Reliance Track

Root Cellars: Design, Construction, and Use
with Rod Bowling

Save Your Own Seeds
with Chris Smith

Self-Sufficiency? You Can Do It!
with Chris Hope

Tiny Houses
with Jeramy Stauffer & Kevin Ward

Homestead Skills Track

Backyard Chickens for Eggs & Meat
with Dianne Palmer-Quay

Small-Scale Forestry
with Shawn Swartz

Click HERE to see how Roundup (glyphosate) usage has increased from 1992 through 2012. This graphic map shows a staggering increase through the years, illustrating just how much glyphosate (Roundup) is currently being applied across the center of the USA – over prime monarch migration areas and over much of the Mississippi River basin. According to a 2013 Yale Environment 360 article, “a new census taken at the monarchs’ wintering grounds found their population had declined 59 percent over the previous year and was at the lowest level ever measured.”

As you can see, the habitat you are currently providing is vital to pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife. However, good neighborly relations are extremely valuable for a multitude of reasons. Perhaps you can navigate a way to keep the pasture unmowed AND keep your neighbors happy.

Here are a few ideas:

Ruth’s advice is continued HERE!

Brochure in the Mail

If you are on our mailing list, look for the Harvest Conference Brochure in the mail at the end of July.

For a sneak preview, click here.
Pollinator Gardens with Ruth Gonzalez

Residential Permaculture With Will Hooker

Herbal Medicine Track

Wild Pharmacy with June Ellen Bradley

Appalachian Folk Medicine with Byron Ballard

Homemade Immune Boosters with Melissa Fryar

Cultivating Wild Medicinals with Ryan Milt

Backyard Wonders Track

Organic Orcharding

Harvest Conference Details

Dates: September 11th & 12th, 2015
Who: Backyard & Urban Growers, Homesteaders & Gardeners of all stripes, and those interested in self-reliance.
Friday, September 11th: Pre Conference Workshops, both half day & whole day options. Held in VARIOUS LOCATIONS.
Saturday, September 12th: Choose from more than 25 Workshop classes in 7 tracks, much like the Spring Conference format. Held at AB TECH MAIN CAMPUS, ASHEVILLE.

Same great education—Another great time of year!
Down and Dirty Soil Building Secrets with Ea Murphy

Grow Food Where People Live with Chuck Marsh

Grow Berries Now! with Walter Harrill

For Pre Conference Workshop descriptions click HERE. For Conference class descriptions click HERE. For instructor bios click HERE.

Full Instructor Bios here. Full Class Descriptions here.

Online Registration Available

For the complete Harvest Conference Schedule, click here.

For Volunteering, click here. For Exhibiting, click here.

REGISTER HERE!

2nd Annual HARVEST CONFERENCE

September 12th, 2015
Pre Conference Workshops September 11th

http://www.organicgrowersschool.org

Powered by MyNewsletterBuilder