



Eastern NC Nursery News

November 2017

Find the latest information about nursery production in Eastern NC below!

[Visit Danny's Website](#)

Freshwater Flooding Performance of Nursery Grown Container Ornamentals

During the fall of 2016 following Hurricane Matthew, numerous nurseries in eastern NC experienced flooding of both container and field nursery crops which resulted in millions of dollars of loss in infrastructure and plant material. To make matters worse, a few nurseries were also affected by flooding during a no-named storm event during spring of 2017. There are many resources related to flood tolerance of plants in nature or in the landscape but little reference to flood performance of container grown ornamentals. The following link will take you to the results of visual evaluations of container ornamentals (foliage, roots, and overall) conducted at these nurseries following these freshwater flooding events and compiled by Danny Lauderdale, Eastern



Fire Power nandina was one of the poorest performing plants following flooding. See more performance ratings at the link below.

Region Area Specialized Agent, Nursery and Greenhouse. Hopefully these evaluations and notes will help growers plan and prepare for future potential flooding events. Thanks to Dr. Anthony LeBude for reviewing this information.

Click this link to see the summary of plant performance:

[Freshwater Flooding Performance of Nursery Grown Container Ornamentals](#)

Brushing Up on Nursery Irrigation Practices

Late fall and winter can be a great time to participate in trade shows and attend traditional educational events. When you have some extra down time this winter take that time to read an excellent publication out of the University of Tennessee and the education and research program of Dr. Amy Fulcher that focuses on nursery irrigation. It is called Nursery Irrigation: A Guide to Reducing Risk and Improving Production. This guide focuses on the following topics:



Periodic evaluation of irrigation systems can reduce production headaches related to fertilizer loss, pH variability, and diseases.

Water Sources
Testing
Cultural Practices to Reduce Use
Irrigation Delivery Systems
Scheduling Irrigation
Irrigation System Efficiency
Reclaiming Water
Drought Preparedness

The publication can be downloaded online for free at the link below:

[Nursery Irrigation: A Guide to Reducing Risk and Improving Production](#)

Registration for February 13, 2018 Eastern NC Nursery Conference coming soon!



Get this date on your calendar now if you have not already done so. The opening of registration will be announced in early

December. I have booked Dr. Ed Gilman, retired Professor from University of Florida. Dr. Gilman's research has focused on tree and shrub production practices and their impact on the rate of establishment in the landscape. Production practices include pruning, irrigation, fertilizer, root pruning to improve root systems, and non-traditional containers. One major focus was root morphology in response to nursery production. He will be presenting on the

Dr. Ed Gilman's presentations will focus on producing high quality plants in the nursery that will have the potential for greatest success in the landscape.

topic of "Growing High Quality Root Systems, Trunks, and Crowns in Container and Field Grown Nurseries". The topic will apply to both tree and shrub production and will begin at liner development and go through finishing high quality landscape ready nursery stock.

Other topics scheduled will include a Red Headed Flea Beetle Update from me and How to Introduce Biological Control into Traditional Nursery Pest Management Programs by Russ Schmeiss, General Manager of Gardens Alive Farms - North Carolina. Dr. Mark Weathington, Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum, has the topic "Production Crystal Ball: What are the Trends for Flowering Shrubs, Screening Plants, and Trees?". Finally, I have invited Dr. Kristin Hicks, Section Chief of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Plant/Waste/Solution/Media Analysis Section to share how their testing services benefit nursery growers.

The Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program at NC Cooperative Extension is your source for research-based production information for greenhouse and nursery crops in Eastern North Carolina.

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