

WE HELP GARDENERS GROW

# The Seedling – April 2017

Volume 52, Issue 4

The Men's Garden Club of Burlington NC



**Next Meeting: April 25, 2017 — Bring a friend!**  
Occasions, 286 East Front Street, Burlington NC

**Speaker: Dirk Sprenger—Cucumbers and Gourds**

## *A Message from President Tony Abbruzzi*

Greetings men!

The Mebane Dogwood Festival is Saturday, April 22nd and the assistance of the entire club is necessary to make our participation a success. All members are invited to meet at Bojangles at 804 South Main St. in Graham for breakfast at 7:00 AM and then proceed to the Dogwood Festival. If you are unable to join us for breakfast you can meet us at the festival at 8:00 AM. Our sites are # 87, 88, and 89 on Clay Street, the same as last year. We really need help to get our tables, plants, signage, and everything setup prior to

the start of the festival.

I believe in continual process improvement and ask that during the festival you make a note of what went well, what did not go well, and how we can improve our future participation in the festival. Your input is valued and important. Pray for good weather, wear your garden club T-shirts, and bring your sunscreen. We will have water, soft drinks, and snacks available.

Despite the fact that we may be suffering from a severe case of spring fever, and are eager to get our gardens in, we can't

lose sight of the fact that mid-April is the average last frost date for our area. On April 15, we still have a 50% chance of frost to occur. Remember that the chance of frost occurrence does not decrease to 5% until early May. Putting out warm season vegetables in the garden before that time increases the risk of plant death due to freezing temperatures.

Stay focused on the weather and be aware of any microclimates that may exist on your property. Don't rush your garden. To ensure better germination, one of the key factors to consider is

*Continued on page 2*



### Inside this issue:

<i>Editor's Corner</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Members' Birthdays</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Book Review</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Club News</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Area Plant Sales—updated</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Planting Guide for April thru June</i>	<b>4 - 5</b>



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**Last Call!!**  
**Volunteer April 22 for the Mebane Dogwood Festival!**

*Continued from page one*

optimum soil temperature. Seeds require optimum soil temperatures to germinate and sustain early development. When you plant before optimum temperatures are reached you risk loss due to seed death or poor germination, and limited initial growth that might occur because of the lower soil temperature.

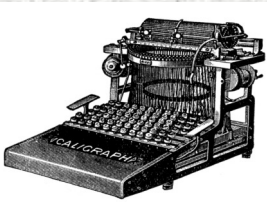
Finally, we need to think about "Gardener of the Year." A nomination committee will be formed at our April meeting to put together a slate consisting of three deserving members. Voting will occur at our May meeting. Start thinking about that one person that has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to our club.

See you at the festival and then at our meeting on Tuesday, the 25th where the program will be "Cucumbers and Gourds" by our own Dirk Sprenger, please bring a friend.

Tony Abbruzzi

*"I thought I was retired but then I planted a garden." -- author unknown*

## Editor's corner



### Send me your news!

This is your newsletter! Please feel free to send me content that you would like to share with your fellow members—upcoming events, gardening tips, resources, websites and online tools, things learned, recipes using things from your garden, deals and other great bargains, etc. Please send to me via email to [bikehasher@gmail.com](mailto:bikehasher@gmail.com) and let me know that it is for the newsletter. Thanks. Kurt.

### Member's Birthdays

Tony Abbruzzi—April 3   Ray Schwartz — April 23   Melvin Martin — April 30

Note: anyone who has not sent in your birthday, please do so. Your perk is to head the chow line with our guests!

### Book Review by Dirk Springer

***Green Immigrants: The Plants that Transformed America.*** Claire Shaver Haughton. Harcourt Press. 1980.

The part about cucumbers is what grabbed my attention, but the whole speaks of dozens of herbs and veggies brought over by Pilgrims and other groups which changed agriculture and food consumption. When for example, they forced Indians to plant wheat in California, even though corn produced three times as much food and the natives already knew how to do corn.

Queen Isabella told Columbus to bring Cucumbers on his 1st voyage, or 2nd. and he did and the West Indies people like them and spread them as far as Florida.....then, when in 1539 DeSoto arrived in Florida, he was very **surprised** to find cukes had arrived before him. The natives were growing them. They were a great way for transporting water for riders on horseback for 1 or 2 days in those times. The contents would contain enough clean water to help with the survival of the rider. The Caballo, well???



## Club News

### March Meeting Highlights

The Mebane Dogwood Festival was the primary order of business as it is our main money maker for the year. Volunteers who wish to meet or breakfast on the 22nd should be at the Bojangles at 804 South Main St. in Graham at 7:00 a.m. While raffle tickets generally sell for \$1 each, you can sell them at 6 for \$5 only on Saturday, the day of the festival.

It was also announced that we have new brochures and business cards for distribution to prospective members and the public. Please pick some up at the next meeting if you have not already done so.

The Donations Ad Hoc Committee gave an interim report of ideas to date for considering increases in the organizations we currently support. If you have suggestions, please submit those to Dick Annand (chair) before the next meeting. We would like to have this process concluded with a membership “up” or “down” vote soon so we can give out checks at our annual meet the recipients meeting in July.

Gail Moore, Alamance County Extension Master Gardner (and better half of the newsletter editor) gave our monthly program on “Establishing a Butterfly Garden”. Topics included pollen, food and host plants to consider when building a garden, illustrated with a few of the 175 species of butterflies (and moths) photographed by Gail in her garden. Additional emphasis was placed on using native plants and providing food for Monarch populations which are dwindling.

### Area Plant Sales—Updated!

**April 20** – ACC Spring plant sale – main campus, Mebane

**April 20**— Caswell Horticulture Plant Sale, Arboretum Parking Lot, Yanceyville

**April 20-21** – Women’s Resource Center Herb Festival, Burlington, NC

**April 22** – Mebane Dogwood Festival

**April 23**— Spring Plant Sale, Greensboro Farmers Curb Market

**April 29** – Native plant sale and festival – NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill

**May 12-13** – Guilford county EMGV plant sale – Guilford Extension Service

**May 19-20**—Biennial Hillsborough Garden Club plant sale, Passmore Senior Center, Hillsborough

**June 3**—NC Native Plant Society Plant Sale, Hagan Stone Park, Pleasant Garden, NC



# Get Your Summer Veggie Garden Started!

Central NC /  
Piedmont  
Planting  
Guide

April - June

Key:

H = herb

V = vegetable

B = bulb

C = Crown

S = seed

T = transplant

Vegetables/Nuts/ Herbs/Melons	Days to Harvest/ Harvest Season	Distance 'tween Plants	V N H M	April 1 15	May 1 15	June 1 15
Artichokes, globe	T = 1 year	30"	V	T	T	
Artichokes, Jerusalem*	Tu = 6–8 months	9–12	V	Tu	Tu	
Arugula	40–50	6–9	V			
Asparagus	C = 2 years	18	V			
Basil	T = 14–35 S = 50–75	2–8	H	T	T	ST
Bay	Continuous		H	T		
Beans, lima-bush	65–80	6	V		S	S
Beans, lima-pole	75–95	6	V		S	S
Beans, snap-bush	50–55	2	V	S	S	S
Beans, snap-pole	65–70	6	V	S	S	S
Beets	55–60	2	V	S		
Bok choy	T = 30–75; S = 45–90**	7–12	V			
Borage	Spring to fall		H		S	S
Broccoli	T = 70–80	18	V	T		
Brussels sprouts	T = 40–50; S = 90–100**	14–18	V			
Cabbage	T = 63–75; S = 90–120**	12	V	T		
Cabbage, Chinese	T = 45–55; S = 75–85	12	V			
Cantaloupe	T = 57–62; S = 85–90	24	M		ST	ST
Carrots	75–80	2	V			S
Cauliflower	T = 55–65; S = 85–95	18	V	ST		
Celery	T = 40–70; S = 120–150**	6–8	V			T
Chamomile	Late summer - early fall		H		S	S
Chard, Swiss	T = 32–42; S = 60–70	6	V	ST	ST	
Chervil	Late summer into winter		H	S	S	S
Chives	Spring to fall		H	T	T	T
Collard greens	T = 32–72; S = 60–100	18	V	T	T	T
Collards	90–120		V			
Corn, sweet	85–90	12		S	S	S
Cucumbers	T = 28–37; S = 56–65	12	V		ST	ST
Dill	Summer to fall		H		S	S
Dill	40–55	2–4	H			
Eggplant	T = 90–95; S = 150–155**	24	V		T	T
Fennel	Late summer		H		S	S
Fennel, Florence	60–90	6–12	H	S	S	
Feverfew	Summer		H	ST		
Green garlic	30–35		V	B	B	B
Kale	T = 14–22; S = 40–50	6	V	ST	ST	ST
Kohlrabi	T = 22–32; S = 50–60	4	V	ST	ST	ST
Lavender	Summer		H	T		
Leek	T = 50–80; S = 120–150	4	V	ST	ST	ST
Lemon grass	Late summer		H		T	T
Lemon Verbena	Summer		H		T	T
Lettuce, head	T = 45–60; S = 70–85	10	V	T	T	
Lettuce, leaf	T = 15–25; S = 40–50	6	V	ST	ST	
Marjoram	Summer		H		ST	ST
Mint	Spring to fall		H	T		
Monarda	Summer to fall		H		T	T



# Get Your Summer Veggie Garden Started!

## Central NC / Piedmont Planting Guide April - June

Key:

H = herb

V = vegetable

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Mustard	30-40	2	V	S	S	S	S	S	S
Okra	T = 18-28; S = 60-70	12	V			ST	ST		
Oregano	Summer to fall		H	T					
Parsley	Summer to fall		H	T	T	T			
Parsley	T = 33; S = 75	9-12	H	ST					
Parsnips	100-130	3-4	H	S	S	S			
Peanuts	145-160	6-8	N			S	S		
Peas, bush	54-60	4	V	S					
Peas, field	55-65	4	V	S	S	S	S	S	S
Peas, vining	54-72	2-3	V	S					
Peppers	75-80		V			T	T		
Peppers	T = 75-80; S = 145-150 **	18	V		T	T	T	T	
Potatoes	100-120		V	T	T	T			
Pumpkin	115-120	48	V		S	S	S	S	S
Radishes	20-25	1	V	S	S	S	S	S	S
Rosemary	Continuous		H	T	T	T			
Rutabaga	70-80	4	V	S					
Saffron Crocus	Fall		H	B	B				
Sage	Summer to fall		H		T	T			
Salad Burnet	Spring to early summer		H	ST					
Scallions	60-80		V						
Scented Geranium	Spring to fall		H		T	T			
Spinach	45-50		V						
Spinach	50-60	6	V	S	S	S	S	S	S
Squash, summer	T = 30-40; S = 50-60	24	V	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST
Squash, summer	50-60		V		T	T			
Squash, winter	T = 42-67; S = 70-95	36	V		ST	ST	ST	ST	ST
Squash, winter	85-95		V		S	S			
Stevia	Continuous		H		T	T			
Sunflower	55-110	9-24	N	S	S	S			
Sweet potatoes	T = 95-125	10	V			T	T	T	T
Swiss Chard	60-70		V	ST	ST				
Tarragon	Spring to fall		H		T	T			
Thyme	Summer		H	ST	ST	ST			
Tomatoes	T = 75-85; S = 125-135**	18	V		T	T	T	T	T
Turnips	55-60	2	V	S	S	S	S	S	S
Watermelon	T = 62-72; S = 90-100	60	M		ST	ST	ST	ST	ST

