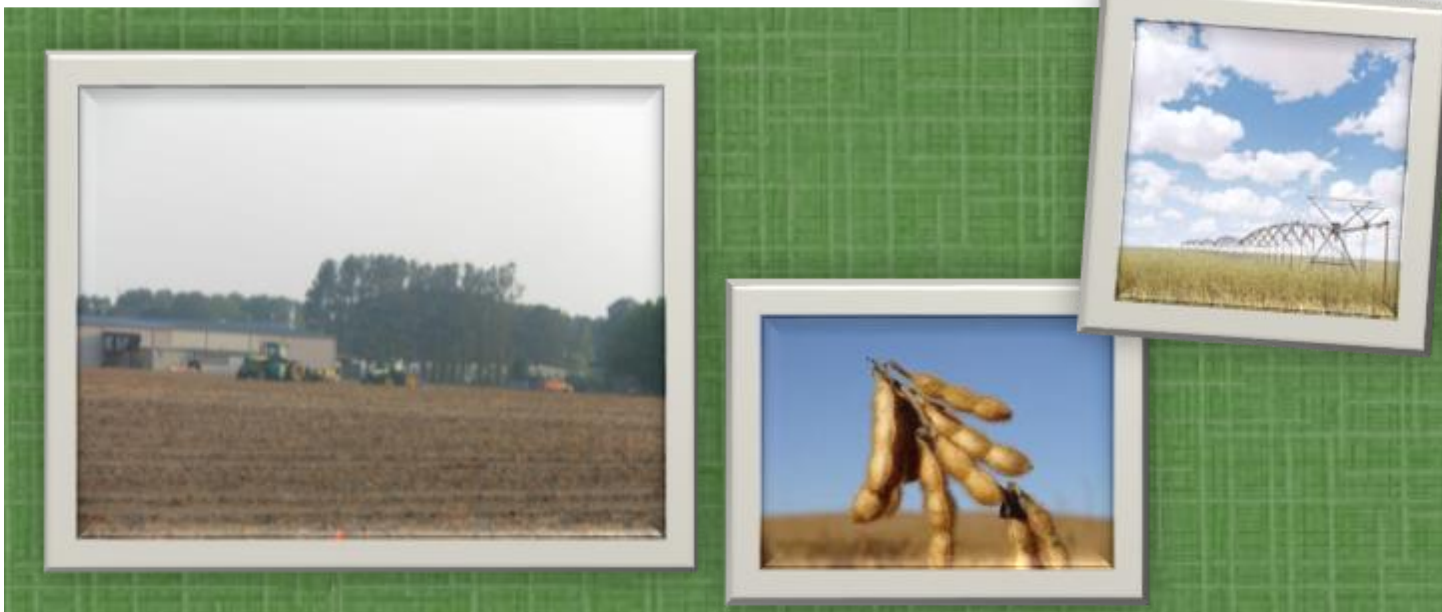


Alternative Farming with Anass

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Issue Three



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Fall Lawn Care

When you look out at your summer scorched lawns, just remember the following tips for renewing the lush look that will appear in the spring.

Cool season grass care

September is an ideal time to plant cool season grasses such as tall fescue, fine fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. The optimum planting dates for these grasses is from August 1 thru October 15. A soil temperature between 65o F to 77oF encourages the best root growth. Seeding beyond these dates increases the chance of failure mainly due to the fact that then you will have to deal with falling leaves.

Fertilization

September is when the first fertilizer application should be made on cool season grasses to encourage deeper, denser roots. You will also notice with the cooler temperatures, that this grass will be

greener in color after your application is applied. The next application is made in late November to encourage winter hardiness. This also helps to grass plant store up reserves so that it can green up faster in the spring. Sweep off any fertilizer that falls on driveways and walkways to prevent washing into storm drains, streams, and waterways. The best way to determine the need for lime, potassium, nitrogen and phosphorus is to have your soil tested. This service is free and you can pick up a soil testing kit at the Guilford County Cooperative Extension Center, Address: 3309 Burlington Road. The sample gets sent to The North Carolina Department of Agriculture Agronomic Division and the results will be sent to you. According to NCSU.edu

Fall Lawn Cont.

Lawn care files; If you do not test, apply a complete nitrogen=phosphorus=potassium (N_P_K) fertilizer with percentages such as 12-4-8 or 16- 4-8. Fertilize with one pound of Nitrogen (N) per 1000 square feet in September and again in November.

Weed Control

Fall is the best time to control broadleaf weeds such as clover and dandelion. Some weeds growing in small areas may be controlled by hand weeding or removed with a small hoe or rake. Fall week control will not control grassy weeds such as crabgrass. The best time to control crabgrass is in the early Spring before it emerges. You will need to keep in mind that you **cannot** apply herbicide at the same time you seed. Apply broadleaf control four to six weeks before seeding. Read and follow directions and precautions on herbicide labels.

Aerification and Power Raking

Fall is the ideal time to core aerate the soil. This is best done after a good rain. Clay soils can benefit from this practice. If your lawn has a thatch layer over .75 inch, it is good practice to remove the thatch using a light power raking.

Tips

Continue to mow fescue at a height of 2 ½ to 3 inches. Never cut it less than 2 – 2 ½ inches or remove more than 1/3 of the leaf at one mowing. If you never remove more than a third of the blade leave it on the lawn where it will act as a mulch around grass plants while it decomposes and adds nutrients back into the soil.

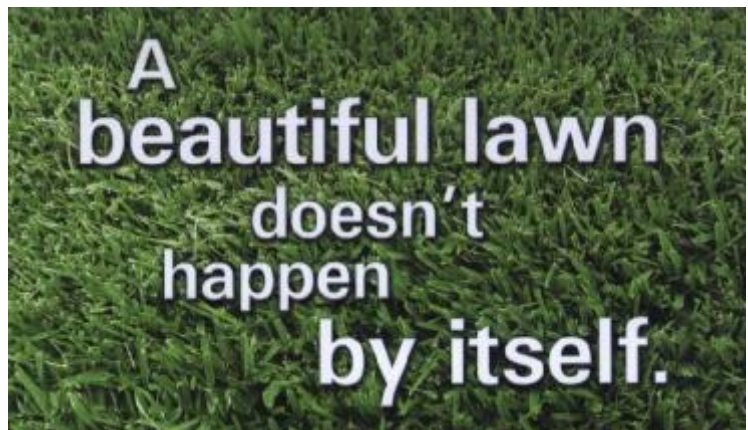
If you must collect the clippings make sure to compost them for use in the garden. This is one way we can all be more sustainable.

Warm Season Grasses

Do not apply fall fertilizer to warm season grasses such as Bermuda, Saint-Augustine, Zoysia, and Buffalograss. Fall or Winter fertilization may cause winter injury. You may want to cover seed with annual winter ryegrass to hide the brown grass. Annual winter ryegrass will die back when Summer heat returns.

Sources: Piedmont Gardeners, Almanac, compiled by Guilford County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, Guildford County Cooperative Extension Services

Modified from Karen Neil publications



Connecting Farmers and Land

NC FarmLink and WNC FarmLink Merge Databases to Further Develop Partnership

Asheville, NC - NC FarmLink and WNC FarmLink have recently merged their databases in an effort to form a stronger and more unified partnership of farm linking organizations in North Carolina. Both organizations were formed within the last five years to serve different regions of North Carolina. Now, their combined efforts not only aid farmland access for both beginning and expanding farmers but also with farmland preservation. Farmland loss is an increasing risk across the state due to retiring farmers and

Connecting Farmers and Land Cont.

development pressure. According to the 2012 [Census of Agriculture](#), between 2007 and 2012, North Carolina lost 2,695 farms and approximately 60,000 acres of farmland. “We are thrilled with this merger and strong partnership,” says Suzanna Denison, WNC FarmLink’s Land Access Coordinator. “We are excited to move forward together as a more unified team for both farmland access and preservation in North Carolina.”

FarmLink services provide opportunities for farmers and landowners to connect in order to make farmland matches possible. Now there is a single database in North Carolina for those seeking land and those looking to find a farmer in order to keep their land in agriculture. Further information can be found on the NC FarmLink website: www.ncfarmlink.org. While on this website, farmers can look for available farmland with searchable terms such as acreage, county and current farm production. Landowners can search the Ensuring farmland preservation in North Carolina through these farmland matching services.

“At NC and WNC FarmLink, we want to help ease the challenges in either finding land to farm or someone to farm your land,” Denison says. “Not only do we provide farmland matching tools, we also offer on the ground support to determine if it is a viable land match, as well as one-on-one consultations and technical support in lease arrangements, farm financing and other factors key to successful farmland access or transition.”

About NC FarmLink:

NC FarmLink connects farmers, landowners and service providers in North Carolina as a free land access web tool co-managed by the Center for Environmental Farming Systems and WNC FarmLink. It is collaboratively managed and supported by a network of partners across the state. For more information, visit: ncfarmlink.org.

About WNC FarmLink:

WNC FarmLink matches farm and forest landowners with new and experienced farmers eager to find land to farm in WNC. The program is a free service to WNC residents. WNCFL offers personalized one-on-one consultation, provides group workshops to help beginning farmers negotiate equitable leases and prepare logistically and financially for long-term land tenure and purchase, which is a major obstacle for beginning farmers. For more information, visit: wncfarmlink.org

**IF YOU ATE
TODAY**



**THANK A
FARMER**

Grant Opportunity

Food Animal Concerns Trust is now accepting applications for its next round of [Fund-a-Farmer grants](#). Since 2012, FACT has provided grants to qualifying livestock and poultry farmers for projects designed to improve farm animal welfare. This year they will award grants of up to \$2,500 for two distinct types of projects:

1. Animal Welfare Certification projects: Projects that are designed to help farms achieve Animal Welfare Approved, Certified Humane, or GAP (steps 4 – 5+) certification through on-farm improvements. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA) is generously underwriting the Fund-a-Farmer Project's Animal Welfare Certification Grants.

2. Pasture Improvement projects: Projects that help farms transition to pasture-based systems or improve access to pasture for their animals. To be eligible for a Pasture Improvement Grant, farms must already be considered highly welfare-oriented, as determined by holding or actively working toward one of six specified humane certifications for their livestock or poultry.

To be eligible for either type of grant, farms must be working, independent operations that raise pigs, broiler chickens, laying hens, dairy cows, turkeys and/or beef cattle. Farmers can visit FACT's website to view all of the [grant guidelines](#) and to [apply online](#).

All applications must be submitted online or postmarked by November 21, 2016.



If you have and email access help us with our going green initiative, please send us your email address to receive an electronic version of the "Alternative Farming with Anass" newsletter.

Sincerely,

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