



Yadkin County Horticulture Newsletter

November 2025

Saving Your Mums

Chrysanthemums are the final stars of the fall garden, but as November closes in and their beautiful blooms fade, many gardeners toss them. If you want those vibrant colors to return next year, now is the time to transition them from temporary decoration to perennial treasure.

The main enemy of a dormant mum isn't the cold, but the repeated freeze-thaw cycle that pushes plants out of the ground, damaging the roots.

1. Plant & Insulate In-Ground Mums:

- Do NOT Cut Back Yet: Leave the withered foliage on any mum planted in the garden. This acts as the plant's natural, protective insulation through the first hard freezes.
- Apply Mulch: Once the soil surface is frozen, apply a thick, 4-6 inch layer of loose, airy mulch (straw, pine needles, or evergreen boughs) over the crown. This shields the roots by keeping the soil temperature consistently cold.

2. Overwinter Potted Mums:

- Mums in containers are most vulnerable to freezing. If you want to save them, cut the stalks back to about 3-4 inches and move the pot to a cool, dark, non-freezing space (like an unheated garage or shed).
- Keep Barely Moist: Throughout the winter, check the soil periodically and water very sparingly—just enough to keep the roots from completely drying out.

By giving your mums this attention now, you're protecting their shallow root system and ensuring a successful, larger comeback next autumn!

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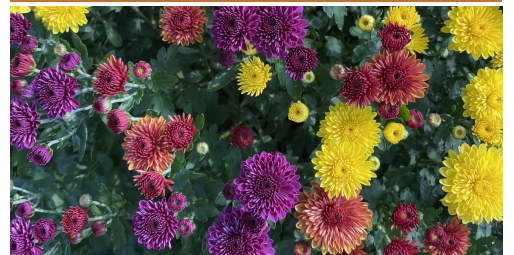
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November 2025

November Garden Checklist: Putting Your Beds to Rest

Preparing your garden now is the secret to a successful and less-stressful spring. These key actions will protect your plants, enrich your soil, and get your tools ready for next season.

1. The Vegetable & Annual Reset

- **Harvest and Clear:** Remove all usable vegetables and annual flowers before the first hard frost.
- **Prevent Disease:** Clean up all weeds and spent plant debris, as they can harbor diseases and overwintering insects. Dispose of these by bagging/trashing, or piling them far away from planting areas and your compost.
- **Enrich the Soil:** Add finished compost and other organic material, or consider planting a winter cover crop (like rye or clover) to protect the soil from erosion and add nutrients.

2. Protect Your Perennials

- **To Cut or Not to Cut?** After a couple of frosts, you can cut back perennial tops now or wait until early spring. Waiting provides winter interest and habitat for beneficial insects.
- **Mulch is Key:** Apply a layer of mulch to perennial beds to stabilize the soil and prevent frost heaving (when freezing and thawing pushes plants out of the ground).
- **Fall Planting:** Early fall (September-Mid-October) is the ideal time to plant new perennials or divide established ones, allowing them time to root before the soil cools.

3. Tackle Trees & Shrubs

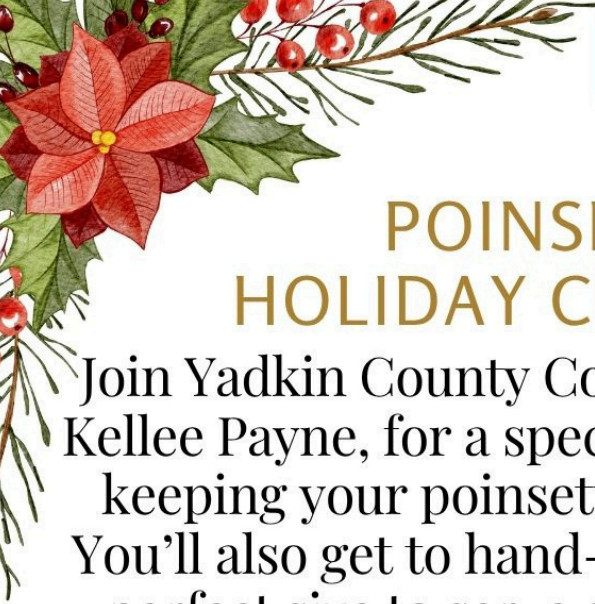
- **Pruning:** Prune trees and late-summer/fall-flowering shrubs only after they go dormant (after they lose their leaves). Do NOT prune spring-flowering shrubs or evergreens in the fall.
- **Watering:** Continue regular, deep watering for all newly established trees and shrubs until the ground officially freezes.

Pro-Tip: Shred Your Leaves

Don't trash those falling leaves! Run them over with your lawn mower or leaf shredder. Chopped leaves make a less dense, excellent, and free mulch for your garden beds. Whole leaves are less desirable as they can mat down and smother plants.

Tool Maintenance

Don't forget to clean and sharpen all your garden tools before storing them. This prevents rust and ensures they are ready to go the moment spring arrives!



POINSETTIA PERFECTION: HOLIDAY CRAFT & CARE WORKSHOP

Join Yadkin County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent, Kellee Payne, for a special event where you'll learn the secrets to keeping your poinsettia vibrant and beautiful all season long. You'll also get to hand-craft a charming snowman hat that's the perfect size to serve as a decorative plant stand for your new plant. By the end of the workshop, you'll be ready to deck your halls with your very own festive poinsettia and its custom-made stand. All materials are included, and you'll go home with both your completed craft and a beautiful poinsettia plant.

Cost: \$10 per participant

Space is limited to 20 participants per library

**December 2nd 2pm-3:30pm
East Bend Public Library**

**December 4th 5pm-6:30pm
Yadkin County Public Library**

****All seats paid for, sponsored by the library****

**December 18th 10am-11:30am
Jonesville Public Library**

****All seats paid for, sponsored by the library****



Register online at
<https://go.ncsu.edu/poinsettiaperfectionworkshop>
or by scanning the QR code



NC Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, N.C. Cooperative Extension will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests to: Kellee Payne at kellee_payne@ncsu.edu or 336-849-7908. Requests can be served more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.





Grant Opportunity For Family Farms

NC AgVentures Farm Grant Program provides grant awards to NC family farms for new and innovative agricultural projects which will increase farm profits.

The program will award a minimum of 50 grants

The maximum award is \$10,000

Deadline to apply is 6:00 PM December 19th, 2025

Producers from the following counties are eligible to apply

Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, Johnston, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wayne, Wilson, Wilkes, Warren, Yadkin

Join one of our Application Workshops for Farmers

Oct. 22, Nov. 10, or Nov. 24

For details please visit: www.ncagventures.org

Or contact your Extension Agent

The program is funded by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission



NC AgVentures, a NC State Extension program provides grants to NC farmers and non-profit community groups that work with family farms, for agricultural project ideas that will increase farm profits. The program, which is sponsored by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, will award a minimum of 50 grants to independent family farms. This is a great opportunity for any producer who is thinking of diversifying, improving, or expanding their farm operation. Yadkin County is among 46 other counties who participate in this grant opportunity.

NC AgVentures will award grants up to \$10,000.
Application submission begins October 15th, 2025
Deadline to apply is 6 PM December 19th, 2025.

For more information please visit: www.ncagventures.org or contact Yadkin County Cooperative Extension at 336-849-7908. NC Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider.

Check out what is “In Season”
during the month of November!

In Season in November **10%**
BUILDING NORTH CAROLINA'S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY
From To Fork
nc10percent.com



Apples Beets Bok Choy Broccoli Brussel Sprouts Cabbage Carrots Cauliflower Celery Root Collards

Cucumbers Greenhouse Tomatoes Kale Leafy Greens Mustard Greens Peanuts Pecans Pumpkins Rutabaga Spaghetti Squash

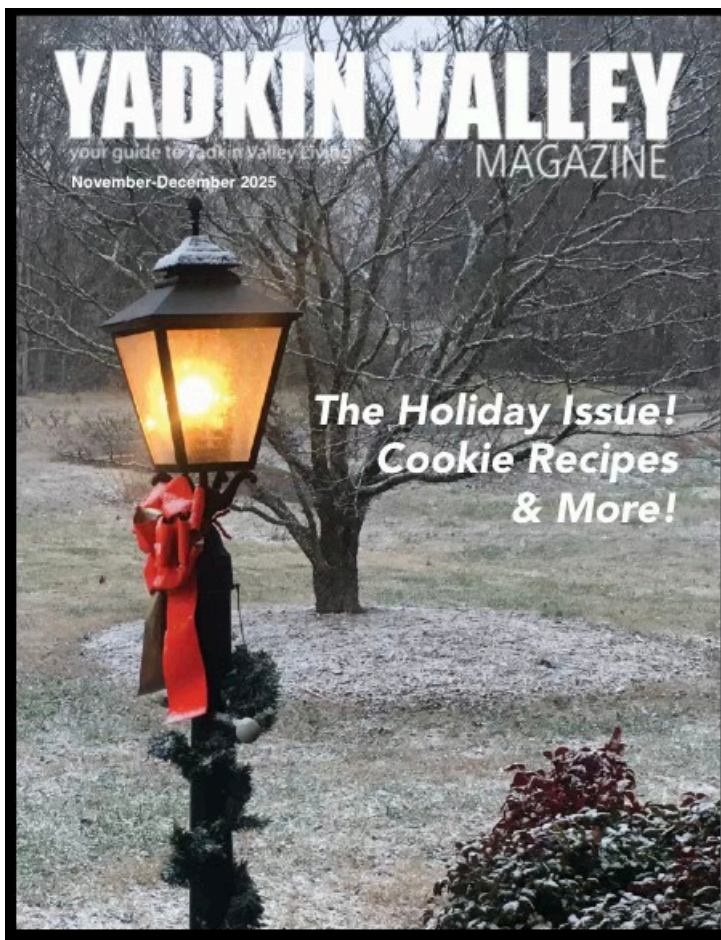
Spinach Sweet Potatoes Turnips Winter Squash Zucchini

CEFS
Center for Environmental Farming Systems
NCESU | NCART | NCDACS

For more info on what's in season,
visit nc10percent.com.

USDA

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Check out the November-December Edition of the Yadkin Valley Magazine. Learn about “A Splash of Color: Amaryllis for the Holidays” on pages 44-45.

You can pick up your free copy at the Yadkin County Agricultural and Educational Building.

Yadkin Valley
Magazine

Visit NC Farms

Visit NC Farms initially launched the Visit NC Farms mobile app in 2018. The app gave us the chance to connect thousands of people to unique agritourism offerings across the state. Now, we're excited to share that we're taking the next step in our growth and transitioning from the mobile app to a brand-new website.

The website provides:

- A free platform for agritourism operators to share details about their businesses and events. This includes an easy editing option for farmers to self-edit their listings.
- Easy accessibility to all, as the website does not require a download.
- Nine categories of experiences including farm visits, u-pick, farm stays, farmers markets, trails, workshops, sips + bites and special events.
- An industry resources tab to house resources that can support North Carolina's farmers.
- An events calendar for visitors with an easy-to-use event submission form for farmers to share what they're hosting.
- An interactive map that lets you search our farm directory both by farm offerings and location.
- Featured "trails," - lists of suggested farms to visit grouped by topic.
- A space for Visit NC Farms blogs to be shared.

Visit the [Visit NC Farms](https://visitncfarms.com) website to plan your next visit!



Want to keep up with Yadkin County Horticulture? Follow Yadkin County Horticulture on Facebook @YadkinHorticulture and hit the like button.

Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. We are located at 2051 Agricultural Way, Suite 201, Yadkinville, NC 27055.

Contact us at 336-849-7908.



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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, N.C. Cooperative Extension, will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed, please call Kellee Payne at (336) 849-7908 or email at kellee_payne@ncsu.edu, 10 business days prior to the event.