



# DIGS

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## INSIDE

- LEED HOMES
- PROTECTING OUR NATIVE PLANTS
- SPRING GARDENING TIPS



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Julia E. Shields' black-and-white nandina original appears on this year's exotic invasive T-shirt at the N.C. Botanical Garden. — **PHOTO COURTESY OF THE N.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN**

# Protect the natives

BY KEN MOORE

**T**his year's special gardening feature is not your typical spring garden story; it's an effort to make us take stock of the horticultural/botanical disaster all around us.

Last month, during several drives between Carrboro and eastern Guilford County, I was horrified by the extent of the invasion of Bradford pear seedlings – now large flowering specimens – along roadsides, engulfing entire fields and emerging within the interiors of forests. And now, at the end of the two-week purple-flowered drama of six acres of towering Chinese wisteria adjacent to my property, I am once again facing the yearly battle of encroachment that makes

gardening on my own turf more and more challenging!

My real inspiration comes from United by Art, a group of local botanical artists who are concerned about the nature of our surroundings. Using their artistic talents they have collaborated to create a beautiful educational exhibit, “Plant This Not That,” which is on display through May at the N.C. Botanical Garden.

## *Don't miss the exhibit*

If you care about our natural environment, you need to take a few minutes to view this exhibit. It includes the artists' original color portraits of beautiful, but terrible, invasive exotics displayed on a “Wall of Shame.”

Beautiful portraits of desirable alternative natives are displayed on the opposite “Wall of Fame.”

Text accompanying copies of these plant portraits on eight giant freestanding panels in the main visitor center tells the story of biodiversity lost as the result of a handful of out-of-control exotic plants. The exhibit includes “Seedy,” a comical caricature representing all invasive plants. There's even a Seedy button for purchase in the gift shop, along with a *Bye Bye Seedy* coloring book for kids. The story and illustrations by artist M.P. Wilson describe the Goodgardener family as they go about identifying and eliminating exotic invasive plants from the landscape.

When invasives escape from a garden, the natural landscape is changed – perhaps forever. Lacking the natural biological enemies that existed in their native homelands, they flourish and overrun native plants: Witness the destructive spread of kudzu, Asian wisteria and English ivy. The creatures that depend on native vegetation for food and shelter are often left hungry and homeless.

The first line of defense for biodiversity is the enlightened, responsible gardener who refuses to plant known invasive species. You can help by telling family and friends of the harm invasive species cause, by requesting that garden centers provide only non-invasive choices and by planting ecologically friendly plants.

# Plants of Shame

Identified “Plants of Shame” include Bradford pear, Japanese and Chinese wisteria, nandina with red berries that are toxic to cedar waxwings, mimosa, rose of Sharon, autumn olive, privets, Japanese honey-suckle, English ivy, porcelain-berry and hardy orange.

Here, from the exhibit, I’ve selected a few of what I personally consider to be the most terrible exotics wreaking havoc in gardens and natural areas locally.



ARTWORK BY GLENDA PARKER JONES

## Callery ‘Bradford’ Pear *Pyrus calleryana*

The Bradford pear seduces us with its beautiful spring flowers and vibrant fall color, but the sad truth is that birds eating the fruits drop the seed far and wide, resulting in the displacement of successional native flora like dogwood, redbud, red cedar, sassafras and black cherry. In addition, the tree’s weak wood and branch structure result in frequent storm and freeze damage, and while many municipalities and institutions, at great expense, are now removing Bradford pears, these “plant bullies” continue to be sold and planted.



ARTWORK BY IRENA BRUBAKER

## Autumn Olive *Elaeagnus umbellata*

Along with all the privets (*Ligustrum sinense*, *L. japonicum* and *L. vulgare*) autumn olive is also used for screening in landscape design. It can grow up to 20 feet tall – even in poor soil because it can manufacture its own nitrogen fertilizer. A mature, 3- to 5-year-old shrub can produce about 60,000 seeds contained within its bird-dispersed fruits. Autumn olive and its close kin, evergreen thorny olive, *Elaeagnus pungens*, are disastrous for our native plant communities and wildlife! Throughout our floodplains the olives and privets are completely displacing once common native spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*, the necessary host plant for larvae of the spicebush swallowtail butterfly.



ARTWORK BY BETSY LOWRY DONOVAN

## Japanese Wisteria and Chinese Wisteria

*Wisteria floribunda* and *Wisteria sinensis* are not strangers to most North Carolina residents, who observe purple flower-filled woodlands when the strangling vines are most evident in April. These exotic wisterias literally cover any plants within their reach, and they actually strangle and kill mature trees.



ARTWORK BY JOANNE PHILLIPS LOTT

## English Ivy *Hedera helix*

Beware of this vine, which clings to vertical structures or covers the ground. Be it solid-colored or variegated, it is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. In addition, the sap and black berries are poisonous. First introduced to North America by early colonists, it has escaped the walls and “halls of ivy” to run rampant over native plants in the wild.



# Plants of Fame

From countless native alternatives, the artists have chosen a select few, including pawpaw, American wisteria, Carolina jessamine, Virginia creeper, Carolina silver bell, Florida azalea, redbud, passion flower and climbing hydrangea.

My own personal favorites are described below.



ARTWORK BY JOANNE PHILLIPS LOTT

## Redbud

### *Cercis canadensis*

The native drought-tolerant redbud is prized for its early-spring magenta buds that open in various shades of pink. Noteworthy pale-green, heart-shaped leaves produce lovely yellow fall color, and some cultivars sport handsome season-long burgundy foliage.



ARTWORK BY M.P. WILSON

## Passion Flower

### *Passiflora incarnata*

Also called maypop, this vigorous, drought-tolerant and pest-resistant deciduous vine can reach 20-plus feet, covering itself with spectacular exotic-looking flowers, followed by yellow fruits. Well known for its medicinal properties, it is especially enticing to butterflies and other important pollinators. It has a secret – it doesn't stay in place. Passion flower moves around the garden making you search for each year's new location. It's both a challenge and thrill to anticipate its annual reappearances.



ARTWORK BY BETSY LOWRY DONOVAN

## American Wisteria

### *Wisteria frutescens*

The well-behaved American wisteria is a very great alternative to the invasive Asian species. Frequently grown in colonial gardens, it was first sold by an American nursery in 1783. Vines do not take as long to begin flowering as do exotic varieties, and occasional flowering continues through the season.



ARTWORK BY GLENDA PARKER JONES

## Virginia Creeper

### *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Providing perches, nesting sites and food for butterflies and birds, with colorful leaves and waxy indigo berries in the fall, Virginia creeper grows on trellises or fences or can be used as a ground cover.



ARTWORK BY IRENA BRUBAKER

## Pawpaw

### *Asimina triloba*

This small deciduous tree produces the largest edible tree fruit native to the United States. Popular among humans, raccoons and other mammals, the fruit's taste is often described as a combination of banana and mango. Zebra swallowtail larvae depend exclusively on pawpaw leaves for sustenance. Though naturally occurring in rich, moist woodlands and near streams,



ARTWORK BY JOANNE PHILLIPS LOTT

## Florida Azalea

### *Rhododendron austrinum*

Native to the lower South, this deciduous, medium-sized shrub is impressive in early spring with golden-orange flower clusters and intoxicating fragrance. This is one of the most easily cultivated and beautiful of all the native azaleas.



***The Transplanting Traditions Community Farm is now selling vegetables through a CSA or Community Supported Agriculture subscription program!***

All of the ethnic Karen refugee families involved in this educational farming program were farmers in their native Burma. The project seeks to assist them in transitioning to farming in America. All proceeds from the CSA go directly to the refugee farmers involved in the program. Support this great program AND receive high quality, local, chemical free vegetables by signing up for a CSA.

The Traditions Farm is also a part of this year's Piedmont Farm Tour! You will see not only chickens, goats and traditional American crops but many crops native to Burma including ginger, turmeric and galangal. The program will be selling vegetable and flower transplants, as well as offering family fun activities such as hayrides.

TO SIGN UP FOR THE CSA AND FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR BLOG AT [OCPYC.WORDPRESS.COM](http://ocpyc.wordpress.com) OR EMAIL [KOWENSBY@ORANGESMARTSTART.ORG](mailto:kowensby@orangesmartstart.org). FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PIEDMONT FARM TOUR VISIT [HTTP://WWW.CAROLINAFARMSTEWARDS.ORG/PFT2011.SHTML](http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/pft2011.shtml)

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N.C. Forest Service biologist Alan Moore identifies invasive exotic plants for Triangle Land Conservancy volunteer Paul Young (left) and TLC staff member Bo Howes (middle). — **PHOTO BY LEIGH ANN HAMMERBACHER**

pawpaws thrive in home gardens.

### Protect the natives; do your part

Each of us bears a responsibility in *Bringing Nature Home*, as Douglas W. Tallamy's book title declares.

First we must learn to identify the exotics that become invasive bullies impacting our natural surroundings. There are many, many exotics that are lovely and pose no threat. Visit the N.C. Botanical Garden's website, [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu), to learn more and find additional resources, such as "Going Native: Urban Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants," at [ncsu.edu/goingnative/index.html](http://ncsu.edu/goingnative/index.html)

Do as some are already doing by joining with friends and neighborhood groups to make a difference.

Chapel Hillian Bill Bracey began a monthly exotics removal 10 years ago for willing volunteers to pull and cut invasive exotics from the edges of the Bolin Creek Greenway in Chapel Hill. The job is not finished; it continues each third Saturday morning and progress is noticeable.

Under the supervision of Elizabeth Curtis, residents of Carrboro's Arcadia Cohousing Community execute regular exotics removal from their eight-acre natural area.

The Triangle Land Conservancy conducts seasonal invasive-exotics identification workshops and monthly exotics-removal workdays on its Irvin and Johnston Mill nature preserves. There are 60 volunteers called the Weedwackers, and thus far they have cleared 12 acres of invasive exotics. Consider becoming a volunteer Weedwacker; information is available at [triangleland.org](http://triangleland.org)

A great new neighborhood effort making great progress is the Redbud Neighborhood in northern Chatham County. Their entry and long meandering woodland drive was a solid screen of autumn olive, privet and other plant bullies. The Redbud Environment Committee's mission is to protect and, as necessary, reestablish a sustainable ecosystem of native flora and fauna within the Redbud Community. Members of that community are having success opening up the woodland edges and are gradually moving into the interior with twice-

monthly workdays. Following a three-year effort, community members Robin Lyons and her husband, Michael DeNapoli, have cleared their five acres of autumn olive, proving it can be done. The community realizes that the job may never be complete, but they are having great joy seeing real results and taking pride in "bringing nature home."

My woods-walking buddies Brian and Tony have taken up the saw and loppers, and now we enjoy extracting invasive plant bullies as we come upon them during our weekly walking adventures.

If residents of all the neighborhoods would get outdoors (don't forget to include the kids) for just a couple of hours each month, you would be amazed at the progress that can be made – and the fun had while doing it. Little by little, one invasive plant at a time, you will be doing your part to protect the natives, the natural world of which we are a part.

*Special thanks to Johnny Randall and his colleagues at the N.C. Botanical Garden, who work tirelessly to "Protect the natives."*



Residents of Redbud Community waging battle on autumn olive, from left, Millie Van Ness (kneeling), Bill Cure, Robin Lyons, Kira Dirlik, Mary Cilley and Dave Van Ness — **PHOTO BY ROBIN LYONS**



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Master Gardener Julia Thomson responds to a call while Master Gardener/Green Gardener Betsy Underwood identifies the invasive weed pest Asiatic hawk's beard for walk-in Chris Piscitello at the Green Gardener desk at the N.C. Botanical Garden. — **PHOTO BY LAURA COTTERMAN**

# Plant questions answered with a smile

BY WENDY WENCK

A woman enters the doors of the Education Center at the North Carolina Botanical Garden and approaches the Green Gardener Desk, where two volunteers are discussing a description of a plant and comparing it with images found online. The visitor says, "Could you help me identify this plant I found growing in my yard?" And so begins another engagement at the mid-day plant clinic.

Monday through Friday from noon to 2 p.m., trained volunteers are available at the N.C. Botanical Garden to answer gardening and plant-related questions. Plant, insect and disease identifications are popular topics. Soil preparation, weed management and what to plant are also frequently discussed. Novice gardeners have many questions about virtually everything to do with plants, while more experienced gardeners often ask questions that call for more research. If inquiries are particularly challenging, garden staff may be consulted.

Two groups of volunteers provide this important public service. The Green Gardeners are trained by staff of the Botanical Garden in five weekly sessions covering the philosophy and mission of the garden, with an emphasis on environmental and sustainable gardening practices. At the completion of the training program, these volunteers also take a competency test.

The Orange County Master Gardeners, affiliated with N.C. State's Cooperative Extension Service, go through an exten-

sive training program in horticulture and then qualify by passing an exam. Master Gardener volunteers provide 40 hours of volunteer service during the following year and an additional 20-plus hours in subsequent years. You can visit or call Master Gardeners in their Hillsborough office (306-E Revere Road, (919) 245-2050) on weekdays between 10 a.m. and noon.

"These two groups cooperate to provide the same service," says Dot Wilbur-Brooks, longtime garden staff member who now volunteers in several capacities and serves as coordinator of the Green Gardeners. "These volunteers provide an invaluable public-service presence, supplementing garden staff who have twice the display garden area to manage since the Education Center's opening in 2009."

Some volunteers have gone through both training programs. Continuing education sessions and field trips are available for both Green Gardeners and Master Gardeners, so it is advantageous to be a member of both groups.

These volunteers enjoy working with other gardeners who share their interests. One question often leads to another, and an understanding of gardening, particularly in the Carolina Piedmont, improves over time. It's always exciting to share new recommendations for plants, insect and plant-disease pests and environmentally safe gardening techniques.

Sometimes volunteers are faced with a flurry of questions related to a specific issue, like the concern about sudden oak

death syndrome reported a few years ago.

Master Gardener/Green Gardener volunteers love helping novice and seasoned gardeners succeed with any new endeavor. Whether you are planting your first vegetable garden or a new home landscape, identifying a pest or seeking to control an invasive exotic plant, you'll find the friendly assistance of these volunteers invaluable.

So put these volunteers to work for you, and please help them out if you seek a plant identification by bringing a stem of several leaves and a flower or fruit instead of a single leaf or part of a leaf, and your chances of a successful identification will be greater.

## Become a volunteer

Continuing state-agency budget cuts make volunteers essential for providing information to the gardening public. If you are interested in becoming a Green Gardener, contact the N.C. Botanical Garden at [volunteerncbg@unc.edu](mailto:volunteerncbg@unc.edu) or (919) 962-0522. Inquiries about becoming a Master Gardener should be directed to Orange County extension agent Carl Matyac at [Carl\\_matyac@ncsu.edu](mailto:Carl_matyac@ncsu.edu) or (919) 245-2050.



# Spring Gardening Tips

*SUGGESTED BY N.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN STAFF*

1. WEED, WEED, WEED! Practice plant seed triage: Focus first on plants with seeds and then plants with flowers.
  - Remember gardening is supposed to be fun, so schedule your weeding in short periods interspersed with more enjoyable gardening activities like planting and simply enjoying what you have.
2. There's still time to move plants around. Dig up and divide extra plants to share as "pass-alongs" with friends and neighbors with the wisdom to water regularly through the growing season until established.
3. Apply corn gluten as an environmental strategy to prevent seed germination of unwanted plants. Ask the Green Gardeners about corn gluten.
4. Label or otherwise mark spring ephemerals and spring bulbs like crocus and daffodils so you don't plant new plants over them later in the season.
5. Stake lilies, peonies and other tall-growing plants now, before they begin to flop, so they will grow up through and disguise the stakes for a more pleasing summer and fall display.
6. Conduct monthly clipping of chrysanthemums and other fall-flowering perennials until early August to produce bushy late-season displays.
7. Plant all the things you didn't get to last fall. Realize that all those plants are better off in the ground than suffering from a lack of daily watering in pots.
8. Keep churning your compost pile. If you don't have one, start one. Ask the Green Gardeners about options.
9. If you haven't yet trimmed the dried stems of ornamental grasses, do so now, taking care not to cut back the new green growth. The best time for this is late winter.
10. Take photos of enjoyable features in your garden. Label and date the photos and include them in a daily gardening journal of your observations, your actions and your visions for the future.
11. Above all, enjoy it!



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# LEEDing the way

BY ROSE LAUDICINA

**L**EED is an acronym that gets tossed around a lot in discussions about environmentally friendly construction, especially in eco-savvy Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

But while most know that LEED stands for some sort of eco-friendly and “green” building practice, what the acronym actually stands for – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – is often lost on most of us.

Most recently LEED has been mentioned in the conversation about the construction of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools’

new elementary school designers say should receive a LEED Gold standard, allowing it to one-up Carrboro High School’s LEED Silver certificate.

While building to LEED standards in commercial construction is becoming more and more the norm, many people are unaware that there is a set of LEED standards for new-home construction.

These standards are not always easy to build by. Sometimes, with new construction – especially residential construction – being fraught with delays and enough arduous

This home on Greene Street in Chapel Hill – built to LEED standards by Allan Knight and Paul Snow – is in the final phases of construction. Knight and Snow hope to create a niche of environmentally friendly homes along Greene Street. — **PHOTOS BY DUNCAN HOGE**





details to make one want to throw in the towel and move into a box home, the idea of having to document every step of the construction process, including where the trash from the site goes, can seem at the outset like too much to deal with.

However, two people in town know all about these LEED residential standards, embrace them and accept the challenge they present.

These two men – Allan Knight and Paul Snow – are out to change the way people build in town.

“I’ve been doing this for 25 years, and I see it almost as a moral obligation to change the way building is done,” Knight said. “[Build-

*“This is the hesitation for a lot of builders. It is a more onerous process, and you do have to pay more attention to things and follow through.” — Allan Knight*

ing] is a wasteful process in many regards, and it has a huge impact on the environment.”

“To me, building to these standards is the only way to go. When you look at energy statistics, you realize almost 70 percent of electricity in this country is consumed to heat



and cool and light the houses and buildings that we occupy. We’ve got to figure out a way to lower our consumption of energy, and this is a direct way to do that,” he continued. “These houses will perform significantly better than any conventionally built house.”

### Putting it into practice

Snow and Knight are simultaneously building two houses to LEED standards, which Snow admitted was a bold move. The first home is located, appropriately enough, on Greene Street in Chapel Hill, and the second, designed by modern architect Phil Szostack (who also designed the Durham Performing Arts Center), is on Yates Motor Court Alley off West Franklin Street.

When building a house to LEED standards



– which as an added bonus garners the home Energy Star certification – a builder has to consider not only the energy-efficiency of the infrastructure of the house but also how the house and construction process impact the natural environment. Additionally, every step of the building process has to be carefully

documented and then evaluated by a Green Rater, who will determine if the home does in fact meet all the required standards.

“This is the hesitation for a lot of builders,” Knight said. “It is a more onerous process, and you do have to pay more attention to things and follow through.”

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Another feature every home in the South, energy efficient or not, should have is an efficient HVAC unit. In the Greene Street home, the HVAC unit is smaller but more efficient than traditional units, making the unit cost less to run; plus, with the home leaking less air-conditioning and heat than traditional homes, the occupant will have to run it less.

"I think where you really see actual dollars spent in a way there is a measurable return in building these homes is in your HVAC system and building envelope," Knight said. "The higher-standard performance systems and the new insulation techniques are going to result in energy savings to the owner that means in the long term it's going to cost less to own and maintain this house."

*Bringing it to the masses*

While the home is being built using modern technology, the overall style of the home is

Knight said an additional challenge in building the home on Greene Street was its narrow lot, forcing creativity in the design. But the narrow lot didn't constrain the home's green features; the house is packed full of energy-efficient goodies.

"We knew we wanted it to be LEED certified," Knight said. "We started out looking at what we had to do to meet those standards and how we could do that as cost efficiently as possible."

One of the most important parts of the process in getting both a LEED and an Energy

Star certification is effectively sealing what is called the building envelope, which is what separates the conditioned space of the interior of a home from the exterior. In order to minimize the amount of heat and air conditioning that leaks out, Knight said he sprayed closed-cell foam insulation in the roof deck, since that's where a house loses the most heat.

Energy Star-certified windows, doors, lights and ceiling fans were used throughout the home, and all the toilets and faucets are designed to reduce the occupants' water consumption.

*"I think there are a growing number of people that are increasingly savvy to what green building means."*

— Paul Snow

In addition to super-sealing all of the walls and the roof, Knight sealed the crawl space instead of insulating the floor. Insulating the entire perimeter of the crawl space creates a conditioned environment, leading to a higher-performance and more energy-efficient house.



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pulling from a historic style seen all around Chapel Hill – the mid-century modern home.

“I was looking for a house in Chapel Hill that was a mid-century modern designed home,” Snow said, “but the houses I was looking at were all older homes that needed a tremendous amount of renovation and change.” It was at that point Snow had the opportunity to buy some vacant land on Greene Street, which he said is “so rare in Chapel Hill,” and he decided to seize the opportunity and build two dream homes with mid-century flare but modern environmental features.

“I think there are a growing number of people that are increasingly savvy

to what green building means,” Snow said. “There are groups of people like myself looking for houses built to a higher standard and a green standard that are still affordable, and I made this home as affordable as I could.”

Snow’s goal is to sell the Greene Street home and then build more homes to LEED standards on Greene Street, creating a little niche of green homes.


“We’re taking an underused property and putting in more density where it is appropriate and doing it as environmentally sustainable as you can possibly get,” Knight said.

“I hope the real estate community will look at this and come out and

say it is not weird and it is not too expensive. I would like to see Paul and I develop a model to do this in a way that brings LEED-standard homes down to the masses.”

“It is a change, it is a different mindset and a different methodology, but for me it’s the most exciting thing that has happened in building since I started 25 years ago.”

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# Quick & simple ways to make your home more energy efficient

**Adjust the thermostat.** Set it at 68 or lower in the winter and 78 or higher during the summer.

**Use electric fans to augment the air conditioning** during summer months. Fans use a lot less electricity than cranking up the AC does.

**Replace your incandescent light bulbs with CFL** (compact fluorescent light) bulbs. CFLs save a lot of electricity and last longer.

**Set your computers to “sleep”** when you’re not using them.

**Be diligent about turning off lights that you aren’t using.** Timers and motion detectors can help with turning lights off, especially outdoor lighting.

**A water-saving showerhead will cut down your consumption of hot water,** which of course uses energy and costs money to heat.

**Do laundry in cold water instead of warm or hot,** and use your dryer as little as possible.

*Somewhat more ambitious ways to conserve electricity and water:*

**Install a programmable thermostat** to make heating and cooling adjustments automatically. (Myth alert: contrary to what you may have heard, it does NOT use more electricity to cool down a warm house or warm up a cool one than to maintain a constant temperature. You are always better off letting the house get warm or cool when you aren’t

there, and then adjusting the AC or heat when you get home.)

**Consider replacing old appliances,** especially refrigerators. A new, Energy Star-rated refrigerator typically uses about half the electricity of a 15-year-old fridge. If your fridge is from the 1980s, you could save \$100 per year on your power bills with a new one. If it’s from the 1970s, you could save \$200 per year.

**Add more insulation to your attic.** Fifty to 80 percent of heat loss in winter is through the roof.

**Weather stripping, door sweeps and properly installed storm doors** save energy by preventing air loss around the edges of doors.

**Replace or repair leaky toilets and dripping faucets.** This can be as cheap and easy as installing new flappers or washers.

**Digital video recorders (DVRs) draw current even when they’re turned off** and can use as much electricity as a large appliance. However, newer DVRs offered by most satellite and cable providers are more energy efficient. Some are Energy Star-rated. If your DVR is more than a couple of years old, call your provider and see if you’re eligible for an upgrade.

*coming soon*

## Compost Bins for Sale Orange County Solid Waste Management Administrative Office

**1207 Eubanks Rd.  
Chapel Hill, 27516**

**Monday - Friday  
8 a.m.- 5 p.m.**

**\$50 each  
tax included**

**Cash or checks only!**



**You do not have to be an Orange County resident to purchase bins, and there is no purchase limit.**

*Questions?*

**(919)968-2788**

**recycling@co.orange.nc.us**

**www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/news.asp**





*The Growing Healthy Kids Project* provides three gardens in Carrboro to help families with young children learn how to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables. The project is beginning its fifth growing season and has worked with over 75 families. The three gardens are located at Carrboro Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. Park and on James Street in partnership with Duke Energy.

In addition to gardening, families also take part in cooking classes to learn how to use the

fresh produce they are growing. Activities during work days at the gardens help children explore and understand the natural world. The project is run by the Orange County Partnership for Young Children and all materials needed for gardening are supplied.

There is space in the gardens

for new families this season. Families must have at least one child age 6 or younger, to apply for a garden plot download an application at [www.orangesmartstart.org](http://www.orangesmartstart.org) or call OCPYC at 919-967-9091.

We would like to thank all past and present participants of the Growing Healthy Kids Project for their hard work and dedication throughout the years. We are excited about continuing this great work and bringing families together so that they may live happier, healthier lives.

ORANGE COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN  
120 PROVIDENCE RD. SUITE 101  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514

