

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association
House Call Visit



Name
6013 Spikerush Trail
Southport, NC
Phone:
Email:

Visit Date: August 2, 2015 1:00 pm
Master Gardener Team:

Dear Mrs. & Mr. McGeever,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to visit with you and tour your yard. The landscape around your home is very nicely done and you still have lots of room to add to and improve upon the basics already there.

We 'Thank you' for your \$50 donation to the BCMGVA. These funds are earmarked to improve our Brunswick County Botanical Garden and we remind you that it is a tax deductible donation.

We suggest that you take soil samples, at least one for each of the major beds you are working on. The results will be sent to you via email. After your soil samples are returned and as you add plants to your garden, we suggest you amend your soil. You can find a variety of soil mixes and conditioners at our local stores. We also want to reiterate with you that Southport is in Zone 8, and plants that do well in that zone should work for you as you make additions.

If you haven't done so already and have time, to better understand Gardening in the South you might want to consider attending our Extension ['Day In The Yard'](#) classes starting this September. We hope you enjoy reading Gardening by the Month that we provided.

We appreciate your interest in Master Gardener House Calls. Feel free to contact us if you need any additional information.

Brunswick County Master Gardeners

Observations and Findings:

The home was is approximately 10 – 15 years old. Landscape in front of house dates to the house construction and home owners added landscaping behind the house 2 years ago. The property is on a wooded lot with lots of mature Loblolly Pines, Wax Myrtles and invasive grape vines. The majority of property is shaded, sun around the house, with sandy soil. You have removed grape vines from the front yard and would like some low maintenance, deer resistant landscaping to that area. Your current landscaping includes: Gardenias, Azaleas, Hollies, Weeping Yaupon, Camellias, Hydrangeas, Magnolia and various perennials.

A drip irrigation system is installed. You have no turf grass.

Recommendations:

The homeowner requested advice regarding the Gardenias in front of the porch. These are mature plants approximately 6 ft tall. They were pruned back last year. There a few yellow leaves which appear to be natural leaf maturity and drop.



For additional information on Gardenias check out:

Causes of Chlorosis--Yellowing of Gardenias

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/helping-a-gardenia-bush-with-yellow-leaves.htm>

Homeowner also requested recommendations for deer resistant plantings in front of the house in the recently cleared area which is understory shade. One recommendation is to install a selection of Ferns, they are deer resistant and require very little

maintenance. A selection of ferns, native to North Carolina, is offered on the Brunswick County Master Gardener Online Plant Sale, at <http://www.BCMGVA.org> including: Christmas Fern, Lady Fern, Maiden Hair Fern, Ostrich Fern and Sensitive Fern. Other options for this area include Dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*) or moving some of the Azaleas from the back yard to this location.



We also observed some deer damage on Azaleas planted in front of house. For more information on Deer resistant plants see: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/71/Deer%20Resistant%20Plants.pdf>

We observed some leaf scale on the Nellie Stevens Holly on the corner of the house. The leaf scale can be treated with a commercial application. The Holly is very crowded by the Gardenia and homeowner may consider removing.



In the backyard additional Hollies were added a year ago. Three are dying and three are thriving.



This could be the result of root rot or other disease. We have taken cuttings back to the office for additional research.

A butterfly garden has been planted with Butterfly bushes, Verbena Homestead Purple, and Lantana. I have attached a pdf document "Butterflies in Your Yard" for more information on Butterfly Gardens. Additional larva hosting and food source plants are recommended:

Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa)
Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)
Gayfeather (Liatris spicata)
Beebalm (Monarda didyma)
Scarlet sage (Salvia)
False Indigo (Baptisia australis or alba)

Recommended plants available on the [BCMGVA](http://www.bcmgva.org) Online Plant Sale include:

Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia fulgida)
Blue Mistflower (Conoclinium coelestinum)
Coastal Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium dubium)
Goldenrod 'Fireworks' (Solidago rugosa)
Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)

The backyard also includes a bed of Hydrangea and Azalea. The Azalea may be getting too much sun. Possible replacement plants available on the BCMGVA Online Plant Sale (www.bcmgva.org) include:
Dwarf Yaupon Holly and Abelia 'Kaleidoscope'