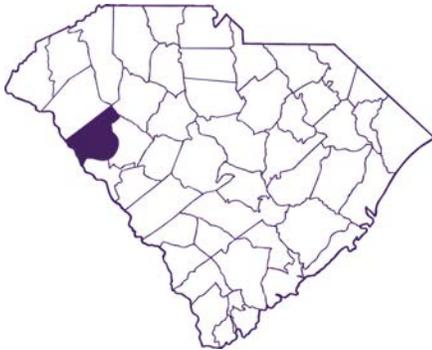


# Annual Report to the People

October 2012

Home & Garden Information Center



135 Old Cherry Road  
Clemson, SC 29634  
Toll-free: 1-888-656-9988  
Monday- Friday  
From 9AM to 1PM  
[www.clemson.edu/hgic](http://www.clemson.edu/hgic)

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.

## HGIC Website

The information found on the HGIC website is written specifically for SC residents but is applicable to much of the southeast. The HGIC website received **2,741,912 page views** in FY 11-12. The site has several sections, including Fact Sheets, Hot Topics, Test Your Knowledge, Videos, and South Carolina Updates.



## Fact Sheets

Six new fact sheets were written for a total of **625 fact sheets** on the HGIC website. Updated **pesticide recommendations were added to 2 fact sheets**. Twenty-four fact sheets were updated. Topics of these fact sheets range from landscaping, indoor plants, and vegetable gardening to food safety and nutrition.

In addition, **584 fact sheets, 65 educational documents and 24 user's guides** were mailed to South Carolina citizens last year.



# Website Hot Topics

Each month timely topics are featured in this section of the website. This **proactive approach keeps the residents of South Carolina informed** on topics that are frequently asked about by clients. The plant topics range from proper plant care to a wide range of insect and disease problems. The food

safety and nutrition topics are geared towards helping citizens make wise food choices, safely prepare and preserve food, and maintain an overall healthier lifestyle. Hot Topics are available in a printer-friendly format.



*Oranges: Adding Zest to a Cold Winter Day*



*Extension Agent Examining Plant Problem*

## Pesticide Recommendations

The HGIC assisted the Clemson Plant Problem Clinic with **37 insect pest control recommendations** for residential landscape problems. These replies included relevant information on the life cycle of the insect pest, and cultural and chemical pest control measures.

## SCLTA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Trade Show

An HGIC staff member served as the Master of Ceremonies at the 36th South Carolina Landscape & Turfgrass Association (SCLTA) and Clemson University Annual Landscape Contractors, Turfgrass Management & Grounds Maintenance Conference and Trade Show at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia, SC. There were **700 people in attendance**.



*South Carolina Landscape & Turfgrass Association*

## Drought Updates

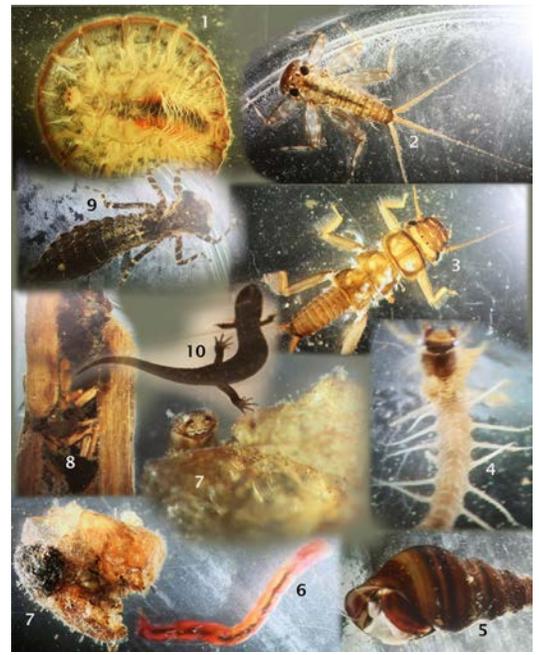
To keep South Carolina residents up to date with the drought situation, updates are provided on a weekly basis from April to November using data from the USDA-NASS South Carolina Field Office.

## Food Recalls

These updates provide easy access for South Carolina residents to know which food recalls could affect them. Last year, 164 food recalls were listed on the HGIC website. During times of a major food recall the Clemson University home page, local news websites and radio stations would promote this feature on the HGIC website.

## Phone Calls

The HGIC received **18,094 calls** through our toll-free lines. 11,532 calls came through between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM.



## ***Upstate Master Naturalist Program Graduates 20 Students***

The Upstate Master Naturalist Program graduated its fifth class on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Cherokee Worldview Garden in the South Carolina Botanical Garden on the campus of Clemson University. During the 12-week course the class of 20 students visited the upstate's finest natural areas including Table Rock State Park, Kings Creek, Burrell's Ford, Jones Gap State Park, Stumhouse Tunnel, Oconee State Park, Caesar's Head State Park, Jocassee Gorges, Jumping Off Rock, Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Lake Conestee Nature Park and the Clemson Experimental Forest.

The graduates of the program now have the opportunity to participate in many different types of volunteer activities. These might include assisting in a nature outreach program at a park, museum, nature center or school; assisting a scientist collecting bird census data; collecting data on water quality or many others. They also have the opportunity to continue learning by participating in advanced training and other activities offered by the Upstate Master Naturalist Association. All 20 students have joined the association bringing the current membership to nearly 100 Upstate Master Naturalists.

The Upstate Master Naturalist Program is one of seven host sites offering this Clemson Extension program statewide. The Upstate program is a partnership between the South Carolina State Park Service, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Offices in Pickens, Oconee and Greenville Counties.

The mission of the South Carolina Master Naturalist Program is to create a corps of citizen volunteers well trained in the fundamentals of natural history, nature interpretation and the interface of humans and nature in order to empower them to contribute their time and talents to responsible, science-based environmental stewardship.



South Carolina

# Master Gardener

a Clemson Extension Program



## Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson County Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener program offers research-based horticultural information in an exciting and educational format. The course is taught over a 16 week period covering subjects from Botany Safety to Vegetable Gardening. Participants then use their new knowledge to serve the local communities by educating others. 34 students attended the course and 14 students graduated as Certified S.C. Master Gardeners. Each student is required to volunteer 40 hours of their time back to their local community. According to Independent Sector.org volunteer hours are worth \$16.91/hour in South Carolina. Our 2012 Master Gardener Class will potentially donate **1360 hours to South Carolina for a total value of \$22,997 worth of volunteer service to their local community.**



**SUSTAINABLE**  
*small farms*  
**& BACKYARDS**  
a Clemson Extension program

## Sustainable Small Farms & Backyards

This program covered Beekeeping, Livestock, Forages, Fruit and Vegetable Gardening, Soil Fertility and Marketing. It was a 6 week program. It educates small farmers and homeowners on how to grow their own crops and sell the excess at the Farmer's Market. **100% of participants said they gained new knowledge** from this program and **95% planned to change the way they garden/farm** as a result of this program.



## Your Day Radio

The HGIC staff participated in **6 Your Day Radio call-in shows** in 2011/2012. Through this show staff members were able to assist South Carolina residents with landscape and plant problems. Your Day radio airs Monday through Thursday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm EST. **on 8 public radio stations** and is available online through live web streaming.

**YOUR**  
*Day*

## Heirloom Seed Program

The South Carolina Crop Improvement has one of the most extensive heirloom seed collections in the U.S. Heirloom vegetable seeds have been passed down from generation to generation for over 50 years. With time, these seeds have

developed a natural resistance to many disease and pest problems. Heirloom vegetables consist of open pollinated (non-hybrid) vegetable varieties. Just one important reason to maintain these seeds is to provide a diverse gene pool for future breeding purposes. In addition, heirloom seeds give people the opportunity to be self-sustaining by saving seed each year. This past year the SC Crop Improvement Association provided 85 different vegetable varieties for purchase. We mailed over 1500 packets of seed to 126 clients in 19 different states from South Carolina to Washington.



*Carolina Gardener Magazine Cover*



## Carolina Gardener Magazine

An HGIC staff member served as the Midland Regional Reporter for *Carolina Gardener* magazine. Monthly reports feature things to do for the lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable garden. *Carolina Gardener* magazine is written by and for Carolina gardeners. Over the years the *Carolina Gardener* magazine readership has expanded across the Southeast.



## Home Canning Safety

With renewed interest in growing local foods, comes increased interest in preserving foods at home. The HGIC provides up-to-date information on how to safely preserve foods by canning, drying and freezing. The fact sheet *Finding Reliable Recipes for Food Safe Preservation* was written in response to numerous calls from consumers who stored food in jars without knowing how to process it safely.



## Spanish Fact Sheets

Fact sheets on basic food handling topics are available to meet the needs of Spanish speaking residents.

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/>

## HGIC Staff

**James H. Blake, Ed.D.**  
Extension Associate

**Millie Davenport**  
Horticulture Extension Agent  
Associate

**Adair Hoover**  
Food Safety Information Specialist

**Janis Hunter**  
Nutrition Information Specialist

**Vicki Landreth**  
Administrative Assistant

**Stephanie O'Brien**  
Horticulture Information Specialist

**Russell Poston**  
Horticulture Information Specialist

**Joey Williamson, Ph.D.**  
Horticulture Extension Agent  
Senior Associate

## Home & Garden Information Center Overview

### Website Data

- 2,741,912 page views

### Fact Sheets

- 6 new fact sheets added
- 625 total fact sheets available

### Hot Topics

- 26 new hot topics

### Radio and Print

- 6 Your Day radio call-in shows
- 9 Magazine columns

### Pesticide Recommendations

- 37 insect pest control

### Food Recalls

- 164 food recalls listed

### Phone Calls and Mailings

- 18,094 calls received
- 11,532 received between 9AM and 1 PM
- 584 fact sheets mailed
- 65 misc. educational documents mailed
- 24 HGIC user's guides mailed

### Drought Updates

- Posted weekly Apr. - Nov.

### Programs

- SCLTA Tradeshow
- Master Naturalist Course
- Master Gardener Course
- Sustainable Small Farms & Backyards
- South Carolina Crop Improvement Association: Heirloom Seed Collection