

Whether you call it a Christmas cactus or Thanksgiving cactus, this pet-friendly evergreen houseplant in the genus Schlumbergera is popularly encountered during the winter season. In the weeks that follow and we resume our busy lives, some holiday cacti quietly, and unintentionally, perish on the sidelines. Here are some tips to help you enjoy your lovely cactus through 2022 and beyond.

These are not traditional cacti of the desert. These beauties are native to shady coastal rainforests of Brazil. Your holiday cactus will enjoy overwintering in a sunny room between 60-68F. Adding a humidifier or regular misting will help it feel right at home. In late winter/early spring, fuel new growth with a monthly application of half-strength, water soluble fertilizer such as 20-20-20. Epsom salt mixed at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water is recommended as holiday cacti are heavier than average magnesium feeders. Provide Epsom salt on a different week than the regular fertilizer. During the growing season holiday cacti are tolerant of dry, slightly underwatered conditions. Basic rule of thumb, avoid water-logged or completely dry soils. Dig into the soil with a finger to test soil moisture. When there is no soil moisture detected until about 2 inches depth, water. To prevent root rot, don't let water sit at the bottom of the saucer. May-Sept., holiday cacti enjoy 70-80F temps, but offer protection from direct sun by moving it to a north or east-facing window. Don't worry about repotting, they prefer slightly crowded roots which means they will only need repotting about once every 3 years. A good substrate contains 60-80% potting soil and 40-60% perlite.

In early June, promote lateral branching by pinching back terminal segments less than 1cm. These short immature segments will not produce flower buds until mature. Buds will form on the previous, more mature stem segments. Fertilizing should stop late summer. Fall/winter blooms can be initiated in September or October. For 6 weeks give your cactus 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness per day, 10 hours daylight, and keep in a cool environment at night ~68F.

Here, holiday cacti get picky. Take note; street lights, car lights, or indoor lights during the "uninterrupted" 14 hr. long night period can negatively affect flower bud formation. Photoperiod has no effect on flowering once bud set is completed, meaning the plant can be set out in the room as usual after the 6 weeks. Maintain the 68F temperature (avoid temperature swings) during bud maturation and bloom which follows about two weeks later is key. Another hint, keep the soil evenly moist to prevent buds and flowers from falling off. Follow these tips to enjoy 7-8 weeks of splendid holiday color from your Christmas cactus for years to come. For more information contact Anson Cooperative Extension at (704) 694-2915 or aimee_colf@ncsu.edu. By Aimee Colf, Horticulture Agent, Anson Cooperative Extension

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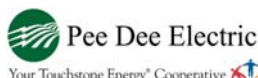
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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.



source: energy.gov



ABBINGTON GROVE APARTMENTS

50 Abbingdon Grove Circle
Highway 74 West at Highway 52 North

Wadesboro, NC 28170 704-851-4598

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE SITE OFFICE

Monday • Wednesday • Friday 8am to 4:30pm

2 & 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

- Carpet
- Stove
- Refrigerator
- Dishwasher
- Microwave
- Blinds
- Totally Electric
- Central Heat/Air & Dryer Connections
- Laundry Facility On Site
- Playground
- Garbage Pick-Up Services Provided
- Smoke Free Community

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in real estate related transactions, or in the terms of conditional of such a transaction, race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin. The Federal agency that is responsible for enforcing this law is the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. If a person believes that they have been discriminated against in violation of this law, they should contact the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410 or call (800) 669-9777.

Accessible Units

TDD Relay # For Hearing Impaired: 711

Reasonable Accommodations

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



Church

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

JANUARY 30

Fellowship Breakfast

At Pleasant Hill UMC, located at 126 Church St in McFarlan. All are invited for a hot & delicious breakfast at 8:30am, followed by church program at 9:30am with guest singer John Pruette.

FEBRUARY 20 - 23

Spring Revival

With Pastor Ron Lynch, 6:30pm each evening at Harmony Community Church, located at 1984 Pulpwood Yard Rd in Peachland. 704-272-7410

ONGOING

Bible Study

Every Tuesday night at 7pm at Garris Grove MBC

Victory in the Sanctuary

Every Saturday at 11:30am at Pathway to Peace, 11775 Hwy 109S, Peachland. Info 704-695-1441

Tools for Christian Living Academy

fourth Saturdays, New Piney Grove Ministries, 6-7pm

Events

FEBRUARY 12

Vaccination Clinic

Free for dogs & cats, 9am-12 noon at the Anson Animal Shelter. Info & questions call 704-994-2738 or email mlett@ansoncountync.gov.

ONGOING EVENTS

After School Program

Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joes Restaurant the 2nd & 4th Thursday each month at 6:30pm For more info or to purchase a broom please call Jim Chandler 910-571-1448

Senior Box Program

at Feed My Lambs starts the third Tuesday each month for seniors only. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

Free Spring Wreath Class

Tommy Braswell will teach a spring wreath class at Marshville Museum and Cultural Center on Wednesday, January 26, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This class will fill quickly, so register ASAP! Call 704-624-6214. www.mmcc1893.com.

Quarantine Area for Imported Fire Ant Expanding to Include 79 NC Counties

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is expanding a state quarantine for the imported fire ant (IFA) to include all of Granville and portions of Caswell and Person counties effective Jan. 1, 2022. With the expansion, the quarantine now includes portions or entire areas of 79 counties.

The quarantine continues efforts to monitor the spread of this pest and address mitigation or control measures. Under quarantine rules, residents and business owners in these counties will need to obtain a permit before moving plants, sod and related equipment into or through non-infested areas. Certificates can be obtained from a local plant protection specialist or by contacting the Plant Protection Section at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3730.

Items requiring a permit include nursery stock, sod, soil, hay and straw, logs or pulpwood with soil, and soil-moving equipment. Also, the movement of any other products, items or infested materials that present a risk of spread from established IFA areas to non-infested areas is prohibited.

"Failure to obtain the needed inspections and certifications may result in the issuance of a stop-sale notice and rejection or destruction of the regulated article," said Bill Foote, director of the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division. "Fire ants can be harmful to humans and livestock. It is important we continue proactive efforts to slow down fire ant movement into non-infested areas of the state."

The imported fire ant was first identified in Brunswick County in 1957. As it spread and became established, it was recognized as an aggressive pest of farmlands, pastures, residential areas and wildlife, Foote said. The imported fire ant is considered to be a nuisance and a health concern to humans, livestock and wildlife due to its painful sting.

For this map of the quarantine area, go to ncagr.gov.

Imported Fire Ant Quarantine Area in North Carolina 2022



NCDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Outreach

Do you own a small, woman- or minority-owned business? NCDOT wants to work with you.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Highways in partnership with its Office of Civil Rights started hosting outreach events in all 14 highway divisions. If you own a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) - whether a small, woman-owned or minority-owned business - NCDOT wants to work with you.

Hundreds of firms representing all types of industries participated in the first several outreach events held on Saturdays since June 2021. The next round of statewide outreach events will be held in January 2022. See the schedule for Anson County below.

NCDOT's Division of Highways advertises and awards numerous contracts each year for all sorts of transportation work. Each project is an opportunity for NCDOT to encourage DBE participation and provide equitable and balanced access for these businesses to compete on contracts.

NCDOT has multiple contract opportunities statewide, including: Construction; Maintenance; Emergency work; Mowing; Traffic control; Tree service; Cleaning service; Litter pickup; and Dead animal removal.

It is important to NCDOT to collaborate with DBEs. As such, the department is extending an invitation to all certified firms to do business and learn more about the opportunities available.

Highway Division staff will be on hand during these events to help the owners of small, minority or woman-owned firms learn about how they can do business with NCDOT. These events are being organized by the Division of Highways in partnership with NCDOT's Office of Civil Rights.

NCDOT is asking people to RSVP the appropriate highway division contact below if you would like to attend an outreach event near you.

Can't make it to a meeting? Additional information for doing business with the Division of Highways is available on Connect NCDOT, the department's website for business and transit partners.

Anson County is in Division 10, which is comprised of these counties: Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union counties. The meeting will take place on Saturday, January 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Metrolina Regional Transportation Management Center, 2327 Tipton Drive in Charlotte. The contact for information and to RSVP is Terry Bureson (704) 983-4400 or turbureson@ncdot.gov.

These events are being organized by the Division of Highways in partnership with the Office of Civil Rights.