

Spring Home & Garden

The *Franklin Times*

Thursday, March 24

2022

Section B



Pros and cons to open-concept homes

Open-concept homes have become increasingly popular in recent years. An open-concept home is one in which the rooms flow into one another with limited obstruction from walls or other barriers. According to the National Association of Home Builders, 84 percent of new single-family homes have fully or partially open layouts.

While they may seem like a new trend, open floor plans are anything but. Early American homes featured open, often one- or two-room units built around the central kitchen/hearth. This maximized warmth and functionality. Homes evolved as incomes grew, and soon homes had several smaller rooms with specialized functions.

What's old has become new again. However, before diving head first into a new home purchase or a big renovation to realize an open-concept dream, consider the pros and cons of this type of setup to determine if it's really right for you.

Advantages of open floor plans

Open floor plans facilitate the flow of natural light throughout a space and can promote air flow, helping to reduce warm or cool pockets of air in otherwise closed-off rooms.

Open homes make socializing easier, even when people are doing different

things. While someone is cooking dinner in the kitchen, he or she can still interact with someone else playing video games in the family room or paying bills in the home office. Entertaining also is easier, as mingling with guests is much more convenient when walls are not getting in the way.

A smaller home can feel much larger if it employs an open concept. The square footage is not divided into smaller quarters, which sometimes are rooms (such as formal dining rooms) that are only used a few times per year. This eliminates underused spaces and opens up sight lines in the layout.

The value of real estate has risen dramatically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and prospective buyers may prefer an open-concept plan because it can help them minimize building costs.

Disadvantages of open floor plans

Open layouts are not for everyone. The same sense of space that occurs when walls are taken down may make rooms feel cavernous and less cozy, particularly in homes with ample square footage. In addition, privacy can be hard to come by when all rooms feed into one another.

When the kitchen is not separate from the family room space, that makes it easy for noise to compromise the area's comfort levels. There is no hiding from noise



Before diving head first into a new home purchase or a big renovation to realize an open-concept dream, consider the pros and cons of this type of setup.

in an open floor plan, as sounds from voices, television shows and appliances tend to echo and blend together. And if the home is a single-story layout, those noises from the main living areas also may carry to adjacent bedrooms.

Smoke and smells are another thing to consider. When something on the stove spills over, a small range hood will not

be practical for clearing smoke from a large space. Though the aroma of freshly cooked food is enticing, it can make it hard for cooks to keep guests out of the kitchen.

Open-concept homes are popular, but homeowners should weigh the pluses and minuses to see if this trend is truly right for them.

When to prune roses depends on type

Many people ask this time of year, "when should I prune my roses, how much should I prune them, and does it matter what kind I have?" If you have long cane growth that needs to be pruned back, mid-March is a great time to do that. However, you only want to remove about a third of their current height. If you have a repeat bloomer, such as flo-

ribunda or hybrid tea roses, you should wait and prune them just before the buds begin to swell and break dormancy. You want to prune out most cane growth leaving three to five of the healthiest canes. A general rule of thumb is to prune down to where the cross-section doesn't

Colby Griffin

NC Cooperative
Extension
Horticulture Agent



show any sign of discoloration. If you have old-fashioned and climber roses then you must wait and prune in the future after flowering has occurred. These roses bloom on old growth. You do not need to remove older canes that are no longer healthy, or aren't producing flowers. An essential point in any pruning measure is to constantly dip your shears in a 70 percent alcohol solution to prevent the spread of any diseases. You also want to prune out any canes

that seem to be crossing one another and remove the weaker cane. Also, remove any canes that are growing inwards toward the shrub.

For more information about horticulture contact your local N.C. Cooperative Extension office at 919-496-3344 or email colby_griffin@ncsu.edu.



The basics of container gardening

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that has been linked to health benefits like reduced stress and improved mental well-being. Gardening also can lead to an inviting home landscape full of attractive blooms and/or delicious foods.

Backyard gardens have long been planted after clearing a plot of land, tilling and amending the soil, and planting rows of favorite crops. However, gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

dens are stationary. Also, beginner gardeners may be more able to control soil conditions inside of a small container rather than a vast ground-based garden, which will require a good deal of manual labor. Pots and boxes also can be grouped together to create eye-popping displays, usually at lower costs than the sheer volume of plants that would be needed to fill out an expansive landscape.

pots; one inch in diameter for larger pots). Also, be sure to check on soil moisture so that watering can be adjusted. During hot stretches, plants may need to be watered more frequently.

What is container gardening?

As its name implies, container gardening is growing plants inside of containers. These containers can be flower pots, rectangular deck boxes or even large raised garden beds.

Pros to container gardening

One of the advantages of container gardening is that plants can be moved in and out of sunlight to ensure the right growing conditions. This isn't as easily achieved when gar-

Cons to container gardening

Container garden plants will not have direct access to the ground, so they need gardeners to create the ideal growing conditions. Developing the right care formula can be challenging. The home and garden resource The Spruce says that drainage is an important factor in container gardening, and most containers do not offer enough drainage holes. If water cannot escape the soil, the roots of the plants can rot and die. It's not enough to add stones or gravel to the bottom of containers. Drill additional holes in the bottom (1/2-inch in diameter for small or medium-sized

Plan for plants that play well

Grouping plants together can create visually stunning combinations. However, it is important to choose plants that require the same amount of light and moisture. Look at plant tags when visiting the garden center and select complementary plants, or ask a store employee. Mixing different plant shapes, colors and leaf textures, as well as plants of various heights, can help containers look filled out.

Feed plants accordingly

Plants need nutrition to thrive in containers. Quality potting mixes will contain fertilizers, but nutrition will wane over time. Every couple of weeks, container plants will need either fresh potting mix or granular fertilizer added to feed them. Oregon State University Extension Services sug-

gests using a slow-release fertilizer or worm castings several times throughout the season.

Container gardening is a great way to add plants to smaller patios, reduce the workload involved in

maintaining expansive gardens, and customize conditions for optimal growth.



Gardening can be less labor-intensive and even more successful when people consider the many benefits of container gardening.

Planning for planting

New plants can add much to a landscape. Whether they're replacing plants that are no longer thriving or being added to supplement an existing landscape, new plants are an affordable way to give a home's exterior a whole new look.

Much consideration is given to which plants to add to a landscape. That's understandable, as homeowners want to choose plants that will thrive and won't compromise the health of surrounding plants and trees. Before planting or even choosing plants, it's important to plan for new additions to a landscape. Preparing the landscape can inform homeowners about which plants to purchase and can ensure they thrive after planting.

- Document sunlight exposure. Plants have different needs, and one of the biggest differences between species is the amount of sunlight they need to thrive. According to Penn State Extension, plants characterized as "full sun" require six or more hours of sunlight per day, while those considered "partial sun" need between four and six hours of sunlight per day. Plants designated as "partial shade" need two to four hours of sun per day, while "shade" plants need less than two hours of sunlight a day. Documenting sunlight exposure in advance gives homeowners an idea of which plants should be planted and where they should be planted. Jot down these observations in a journal over several weeks and then choose plants that will thrive in each area.
- Test the soil. A soil pH test is a simple and quick way to determine the acidity of soil. Soil pH levels will indicate how likely a plant is to thrive in a given spot.

High levels won't necessarily mean an area should be avoided, as some plants thrive in acidic soils. Additional soil tests can determine other characteristics, such as the nutrient levels of soil and the amount of organic matter it contains. Each of these variables can help homeowners make the right choices as they introduce new plants to their properties.

- Consider local wildlife. If local wildlife makes its presence known on a property, homeowners may want to take proactive steps prior to planting anything new. A new fence might prevent animals like deer from getting in, but that likely won't do much to repel smaller animals like squirrels, rabbits or foxes. If wildlife is a concern, homeowners can seek advice at their local garden center about which plants certain animals are likely to ignore. Homeowners who want to attract wildlife can do the same in reverse, choosing plants wildlife will be drawn to. Homeowners who want to deter wildlife should erect fencing or other barriers prior to planting.
- Clear space if necessary. Plants grow up and out, and cramped quarters can make it hard for new plants to thrive. Some may thrive but only at the expense of other plants. If necessary, clear space prior to planting to ensure plants have ample space to grow.

Some pre-planting landscape preparation can ensure new plants thrive.



Preparing the landscape can inform homeowners about which plants to purchase and can ensure they thrive after planting.



ALFORD

Mechanical

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

(919) 340-0676

WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Sales-Service-Installation • Residential & Commercial Maintenance Agreements • Replacement Specialist

FINANCING AVAILABLE • FREE ESTIMATES

www.alfordmechanical.com

Spring Pre-Season Cooling Tuneup

\$98*

per system residential only and \$74 for each additional system

*Call for details Expires 6/30/22 Licensed & Insured



MOWER SERVICE SPECIAL!

FREE PICK UP and DELIVERY!

We Service ANY BRAND of Mower.

ONLY \$159.95 plus tax OFFER GOOD ANYTIME!

- ✓ Oil change
- ✓ Oil filter change
- ✓ Sharpen blades
- ✓ Air filter check
- ✓ Replace spark plugs
- ✓ Belt inspection
- ✓ Check carburetor
- ✓ Grease all fittings
- ✓ Check starter & charging system

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR CENTER ON-SITE!

WE REPAIR ALL BRANDS!

Mowers, Tillers, Chain Saws & Trimmers



NEW 2022 LINE OF HUSQVARNA MOWERS IN STOCK!



Vegetable Seeds are here!

We also have Seed Potatoes and Onion Sets

Landscaping Time!

Mulch ★ Pine Straw ★ Grass Seed ★ Fencing Potting Soil ★ Top Soil ★ Cow Manure

Do it Center

Hardware Farm & Ranch

450 Main Street, Bunn, NC • 919-340-0710

Monday-Friday 7AM-7PM • Saturday 7AM-5PM

Just one of the many reasons you should choose Winslow Homes!



OUR NEW DESIGN STUDIO

We brought selections under one roof to make it a great experience for our customers. Our idea inspiring Design Studio along with the expertise of your very own design consultant will make the process **SIMPLE** and **FUN!** We will help you create the home you've been dreaming of!

Don't wait, get started today by calling to schedule an appointment with our sales team!



WINSLOW HOMES

DESIGN • BUILD • LIVE

919.556.4700 • winslowhomes.com • 140 East Main Street, Youngsville, NC



Key components of popular home interior styles

Considerable thought goes into designing a home’s interior. From which color to paint the walls to the size of the living room couch, homeowners must make a variety of decisions when planing their home interiors.

One way to simplify interior design decisions is to choose a style. Interior design styles run the gamut from traditional to modern, and each style has its own unique look and feel. Though homeowners need not feel beholden to any particular item associated with a given style, three of the more popular styles, traditional, modern and farmhouse, each have certain key components that can ensure a home ends up with a look homeowners are aiming for.

Traditional

Homes with a traditional interior style give a formal yet welcoming feel. Many individuals associate crown molding and wainscoting

with traditional interiors, so that’s something homeowners aiming for this style should keep in mind. Minimal or modern furniture pieces don’t fit with the traditional style, which tends to utilize period pieces made from real wood.

Modern

Modern interiors may differ depending on which style of modern homeowners are aiming for. Midcentury modern typically features unique furnishings that some might see as retro. However, many companies now offer updated takes on midcentury modern that call to mind a bygone era but don’t make individuals feel as though they’re living in a museum. Urban modern is another popular modern style, and home interiors fashioned in this style tend to be light, airy and not crowded with furnishings. Calm, soft tones are a go-to with urban modern interiors, helping to create the serene settings many

homeowners are hoping to create with this style.

Farmhouse

Farmhouse has become very popular in recent years. In fact, a recent survey from the interior design service Modsy found that farmhouse was the most popular design style in 26 states. Farmhouse is beloved for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is its association with a simpler lifestyle. The rustic charm of the countryside is never far from the mind when in a home with a farmhouse-inspired interior. Traditional farmhouse and modern farmhouse are different styles, but natural materials and bright colors, particularly white walls, are elements shared by both.

Traditional, modern and farmhouse are three popular home interior styles. Each has its own unique components, and homeowners can supplement their favored style as they see fit.

Pre-renovation tips



Remodeling projects are significant undertakings. Homeowners must consider a host of variables before any such project can begin. While planning ahead may take time, it is essential to ensuring successful completion of a renovation project. Consider these pre-renovation planning pointers to help any job go smoothly.

Determine your motivation for renovating

Renovation projects often involve balancing needs and wants, and determining if a project is a necessity or a luxury can set the timeline and course of the project. Is the roof leaking? If so, immediate action is necessary. Could the kitchen be a bit more functional? If the kitchen is still manageable, a homeowner may be able to wait a little bit to get better prices on appliances or contracting services.

Separating needs from wants helps homeowners map out a viable timeline that maximizes productivity and affordability.

Get professional advice

Many homeowners are under the impression that doing the work themselves can save a considerable amount of money. This may be the case for homeowners with renovation experience. But by and large, professional contractors are an asset to any renovation. They can provide a realistic overview of the project, map out projected costs, point out areas that could be troublesome, and may have industry contacts that can keep supply costs low. Even if a homeowner will do a portion of the job, a contractor can do the bulk of the work and keep the project on budget.

Get necessary permits

Permits are designed to ensure the work is being done to code and in a safe manner. However, they are not without additional costs and processing time, and that can cause some homeowners to skip this step. According to the home information site The Spruce, building permits cost anywhere from \$400 to about \$2,200 for new home construction. Building permits for smaller projects can cost \$100 or less, and typically are based on a percentage of the anticipated cost of the project.

A permit may be issued the day the application is submitted, while other cities and towns may issue permits up to two or more weeks later. Factor permit fees and processing times into the renovation plan.

If it comes to light a homeowner did work without a required permit, he or she may face penalties; may have to tear out work done to have it inspected or redone; some may be unable to sell a home until permits have been obtained and work has been done to code. Homeowners insurance coverage also may be affected if homeowners do not obtain the proper permits.

Other considerations when planning a renovation include writing out a strict budget, gathering inspiration, drawing up to-scale renovation plans, pouring over material reviews, and getting recommendations for reliable professionals to do the job. While not every obstacle can be avoided, planning is a good way to start successfully.

Call now to schedule your

Spring Cleaning

 **\$95⁰⁰** Plus Tax

218 S. Main St., Louisburg, NC
919-496-2253

**GARRETT'S**
GARAGE DOORS, INC.

Locally Owned & Operated • Over 25 Years Experience

**C.H.I.**
OVERHEAD DOORS

24 Hour Service

RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
SALES • SERVICE
INSTALLATION

919.853.3058 or 919.291.2409

www.garrettsgaragedoors.com

Get your home ready for summer!

**ALLTECH**
Mechanical Services, LLC

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
We Service & Install All Brands
Licensed & Insured
Over 30 Years Experience
Mike Hunt, Owner

— Dealer of —
  

Heating & Air
Refrigeration
Electrical
Air Conditioning
Tune Ups
Replacements
Repairs

919-496-7250
919-215-4090

LOUISBURG, NC • Mike Hunt, Owner

**RUSTIC BUILDING SUPPLY & INTERIORS**

**RUSTIC BUILDING SUPPLY**

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING & REMODELING NEEDS

LUMBER | VINYL WINDOWS | ROOFING
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
CARPET & VINYL | LVT FLOORING
PAINT | STAIN | HARDWARE 

85 NC 561 HWY • LOUISBURG NC
919.496.5726

Versatility runs in the family.

**BX Series 16.6-24.8 HP Easy operation**

 **Together we do more.**

Save big on our sub-compact and compact tractors. They have the versatility to handle every job and a wide range of performance-matched attachments. Kubota tractors under 100 HP are rated #1 for reliability*. Stop in for a demo and to claim this offer on select models today.

\$0 DOWN 0% APR UP TO 60 MONTHS
PLUS
SAVE UP TO \$700

VISIT US TODAY FOR THIS LIMITED-TIME OFFER

LOUISBURG TRACTOR
1931 US HWY. 401 S.
LOUISBURG, NC 27549
919-496-3594 • www.louisburgtractor.com



KubotaUSA.com
*2020 Progressive Farmer Reader Insights Award for Fewest Reported Problems Overall in the category of Small Tractor (Under 100 Horse Power). Award based on 2020 Progressive Farmer Readers Insights Tractors Study. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2022. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months on purchases of new Kubota BX and B series equipment from participating dealers. In-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., subject to credit approval. Example: 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. Customer instant rebate of \$300 are available on qualifying finance or \$600 on cash purchases of BX2680 equipment. Additional instant rebate of \$400 is available with purchase of one new qualifying implement. Offers expire 6/30/22. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your Dealer or KubotaUSA.com. 20220302 09 PM ET 2.1 2022

Spring cleaning: Is your ‘junk’ worth a fortune?

(StatePoint) If your family is like most, you have “junk” in your basement, garage or attic, such as sports cards, memorabilia and toys. Before you toss them out during spring cleaning, consider that the prices of sports cards, games and other ephemera are skyrocketing.

How can you determine if your stuff is valuable and, if it is, how can you sell it?

A widely accepted rule for sports cards, memorabilia and toys is that older items are worth more. However, these days even more recent items are also commanding high prices.

“Vintage sports cards from the early periods of a sport are almost always highly collectible, especially of Hall of Famers,” says Al Crisafulli, Auction Director

at Love of the Game Auctions, an internet sports and memorabilia auction that helps families sell collectibles. “But don’t assume sports cards or other memorabilia have to be old to be valuable. Modern cards of such stars as Tom Brady, Mike Trout, LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Derek Jeter and others can sell for lots of money.”

He is offering tips to help determine if your belongings are valuable:

Older Sports Cards

Cards from the 1960s and earlier are collectible, and those from before the 1940s can be extremely valuable. Big-name Hall of Famers like Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig, Honus Wagner, Mickey Mantle and others bring high prices.

With old cards from

the 1880s and early 1900s, look for tobacco and candy brands, such as Old Judge, Piedmont, Sweet Caporal or American Caramel. Really old Sports memorabilia from the 19th and early 20th Century, such as photographs, postcards, bats, gloves and balls are also collectible.

When opting to sell sports items, consider a specialty auction, such as Love of the Game, which has the expertise to professionally research sports items and maintains lists of bidders specializing in this area, to get top dollar. More information is available at loveofthegameauctions.com.

Modern Cards

Prices on recent baseball, basketball and football cards have risen rapidly. The three keys are condi-



tion, star power and cards from early in player careers.

Do you have major current stars, like Mike Trout, Patrick Mahomes, Tom Brady and LeBron James? Or do you have greats from the recent past, like Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, Magic Johnson, Derek Jeter or Joe Montana?

Check if your cards are

denoted as Rookie, Prospect, Draft Pick or other indicators they’re from a player’s first season. And condition is king, as cards that look pack fresh with sharp corners and a well-centered image command highest prices. Additionally, unopened packs and boxes from almost any year can be valuable.

Memorabilia

Do you have old advertising posters depicting sports stars or famous entertainment personalities together with food, tobacco or sporting goods brands. Many original signs, store displays and promotional items are collectible, especially those dating from the early 1900s into the 1960s. But low-quality reproductions aren’t. Look for memorabilia spotlighting sports heroes, superheroes, early Walt Disney characters and Star Wars subjects.

So, while you’re spring cleaning that attic, basement or garage, don’t rush to the garbage. Before throwing out old “junk,” determine if it’s valuable!

Photo Source: (c) Delpixart / iStock via Getty Images Plus



Renovations that are Welcoming and Smart!

www.RWSconstruction.com
RWS@RWSconstruction.com
919-795-6640, Youngsville



Dining room makeover

If the kitchen is the heart of the home, then the dining room may be akin to one of its arteries. The mood created in the kitchen spreads to the dining space where family and friends gather to eat and enjoy one another’s company.

Dining rooms can get lost in the home renovation shuffle, as many homeowners tend to focus on

renovating kitchens and bathrooms instead. Homeowners do not have to invest a lot of money in renovations to give their dining spaces awe-inspiring makeovers. Here’s how to do so on a budget.

- **Lighten and brighten.** Dining rooms were once very formal spaces. Dark woods, large pieces of furniture, over-the-top chandeliers, and other details could be found in many homes. But now that houses are being built with open floor plans, dining rooms can blend with other spaces, which have moved to lighter colored walls, flooring and furniture. A fresh coat of vibrant paint can work wonders and it doesn’t cost much. If you can’t remove a floor, cover it with a brightly colored area rug.
- **Switch things up with slipcovers.** Slipcovers can be changed each season to dramatically alter the look of a dining room for little investment. Slip covers also protect chairs and can be easily laundered after spills.
- **Add floating shelving.** Floating shelves provide much-needed storage or display space without the need to invest in another piece of furniture. Depending on the shelving, they can work in modern design schemes or even farmhouse dining spaces.
- **Clear out the clutter.**

ter. It might be time to say “so long” to that large curio cabinet and the knickknacks within it. Curio and china cabinets used to be de rigueur, but plenty of people now prefer more open and airy dining rooms. For those who want to keep the cabinet, try decluttering inside to only include the very best display pieces and see if the cabinet can be refinished with paint or a lightly colored stain.

- **Improve lighting.** Make the chandelier the statement piece of the space. Go for a bold color or an innovative design. Then add accessories throughout the space that coordinate with the chandelier.
- **Add bench seating.** Those who need additional seating may not have to get entirely new furniture. Swap out some chairs for benches, which can fit a couple more guests than chairs.
- **Create depth with color.** HGTV says that using various shades of the same color in a space can add depth. Coordinate drapes, walls, seat fabrics, and accessories for a cohesive design.

Renovating a dining room doesn’t require a large investment of time and money. A few simple steps can give dining spaces a whole new feel without busting homeowners’ budgets.



OWN THE BEST ON THE BLOCK

Toro 75750 TimeCutter 5000
50" Zero Turn Mower

23HP Kawasaki engine ~ IronForged deck ~ Foot lift assist
Smart Speed technology ~ Step-through front end ~ Storage cubby and cup holder
Toolless belt cover ~ Handcrafted seat with arm rests
3 year / unlimited hour residential warranty

SALES & SERVICE YOU CAN COUNT ON!

We stock and service consumer and commercial mowers. Visit us today for the best service & parts inventory in the area!

STRICKLAND EQUIPMENT CO.

309 South Barnes Street • Nashville • 252-459-2713 • www.stricklandequip.com





Wake Electric is committed to YOUR POWER.

24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year

Nowadays, some of us take electricity for granted. Wherever you go, it follows. That’s because your electric co-op is here. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership.

WEMC.COM

 Wake Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





Homeowners do not have to invest a lot of money in renovations to give their dining spaces awe-inspiring makeovers.

Lawn & Garden SAVINGS

- Lawn & Grass Seed • Lime
- Wheat Straw • Fertilizer
- Bedding Plants
- Garden Seed
- Pine Straw

We’ve Got It All – to Seed That New Lawn or Boost That Old One!

Grissom Fertilizer
Highway 39 North, 15 Miles North Of Louisburg
252-492-3662
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm; Sat 7:30am-12:00pm



Signs it is time to overhaul your kitchen

Remodeling a kitchen adds value to a home. Remodeling Magazine’s “Cost vs. Value Report” indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

Homeowners may wonder if remodeling their kitchens is worth the investment. But homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchens when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

- Breakers are triggered: If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs and an electric overhaul may be necessary.
- Lack of storage: One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchens is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an



- avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.
- Outdated appliances: Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last around 10 to 15 years. If appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.
- Family is expanding (or shrinking): Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family

that resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

- Poor lighting: Task

lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may not be equipped with lighting where it’s most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve lighting with under-cabinet lights, pendants, overhead lighting, and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

- Frequent run-ins: The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and

make the room feel larger.

- Aesthetic appeal: Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements. Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.

**DICKERSON BUILDERS INC.**
www.dickersonbuildersinc.com
919-496-1527
PO Box 326 • Hwy. 39
Bunn, NC 27508

**Specializing in
CUSTOM BUILT
HOMES and
COMMERCIAL
BUILDINGS**

**JJC Roofing & Repair**
Wesley Weathers
FOR ALL YOUR
ROOFING NEEDS
www.jjcroofing.com
jjcroofing123@gmail.com

**Free
Estimates
Fully Insured**
**SPECIALIZING IN
METAL & SHINGLE ROOFING
FOR YOUR
HOME OR BUSINESS**
(919)497-6799

**J.D. MILLER
CONSTRUCTION**
FREE ESTIMATES
**AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS
STEEL ROOFING**

James Miller
252-987-3610
jdmiller@emypeople.net



1825 Hickory Rock Rd • Louisburg, NC 27549

North Carolina Vegetable Planting Guide

VEGETABLE SEED OR PLANT	AMOUNT FOR 100 FT. ROW	RECOMMENDED VARIETIES	PLANTING TIMES FOR N. C. PIEDMONT*	DEPTH TO PLANT (INCHES)	DISTANCE BETWEEN PLANTS	DISTANCE BETWEEN ROWS	BEST SOIL pH	DAYS TO MATURITY
ASPARAGUS (roots)	65 roots	Jersey Knight	Nov. 15 - Apr. 15	2 - 6	18 in.	3 ft.	6.0 - 7.0	2 years
BEANS, Bush Snap	1 pound	Tenderette, Contender, Blue Lake Bush	Apr. 15 - July 15	1 - 2	4-6 in.	18 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	50 - 55
BEANS, Pole Snap	½ pound	Kentucky Wonder, Blue Lake	Apr. 15 - July 1	1 - 2	6 in.	3 - 4 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	65 - 70
BEANS, Bush Lima	½ pound	Early Thorogreen, Eastland, Fordhook 242, Henderson Bush	May 1 - July 1	1 - 2	6 in.	24 - 30 in.	5.5 - 6.5	65 - 80
BEANS, Pole Lima	½ pound	Carolina Sieva	May 1 - June 15	1 - 2	6 in.	30 - 36 in.	5.5 - 6.5	75 - 95
BEET	1 oz.	Detroit Dark Red	Feb. 15 - Apr. 1; Aug. 1 - Sept. 1	½ - 1	2 in.	12 - 18 in.	6.0 - 6.5	55 - 60
BROCCOLI (plants)	65 plants	Italian Green Sprouting, Premium Crop	Feb. 15 - Mar. 15; July 15 - Aug. 15	1 - 2	18 in.	24 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	70 - 80
BROCCOLI (seeds)	½ oz.	Italian Green Sprouting, Salad, Premium Crop	Dec. 1 - Mar. 15; July 1 - Sept. 1	½	18 in.	24 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	80 - 85
BRUSSEL SPROUTS	½ oz.	Long Island Improved	July 15 - Aug. 1	½	14 - 18 in.	24 - 30 in.	6.0 - 7.0	90 - 100
CABBAGE (plants)	100 plants	Early Jersey Wakefield, Stonehead Hybrid, All Seasons	Feb. 1 - April 1; Aug. 1 - Sept. 1	2 - 4	12 in.	24 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	63 - 75
CABBAGE (seeds)	½ oz.	Early Jersey Wakefield, Stonehead Hybrid, All Seasons	Dec. 1 - Mar. 15; July 1 - Sept. 1	½	12 in.	24 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	90 - 120
CANTALOUPE	½ oz.	Edisto 47, Burpee Hybrid, Hales Jumbo	Apr. 20 - June 10	½ - 1	2 ft.	4 - 6 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	85 - 90
CARROT	½ oz.	Danvers Half Long, Imperator	Feb. 1 - Mar. 1; July 15 - Aug. 15	½	2 in.	14 - 24 in.	6.0 - 6.5	75 - 80
CAULIFLOWER (plants)	65 plants	Snowball	Mar. 1 - Mar. 15; July 1 - Aug. 15	1 - 2	18 in.	30 - 36 in.	5.8 - 6.5	55 - 65
CAULIFLOWER (seeds)	½ oz.	Snowball	Feb. 1 - Mar. 1; June 1 - July 1	½	18 in.	30 - 36 in.	5.8 - 6.5	85 - 95
COLLARDS	½ oz.	Vates, Morris Improved Heading, Georgia	July 15 - Aug. 15	¼	18 in.	24 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	90 - 120
CORN, Sweet	4 oz.	Silver Queen (white), Kandy Korn (yellow), Golden Queen (yellow)	Apr. 15 - June 1	1 - 2	12 in.	30 - 36 in.	5.5 - 6.5	85 - 90
CHINESE CABBAGE	½ oz.	Michihli	Aug. 15 - Sept. 1	½	12 in.	18 - 24 in.	6.0 - 7.0	75 - 85
CUCUMBER, Slicing	½ oz.	Ashley, Poinsett 76, Hybrid Sweet-Slice	Apr. 20 - May 15	1	12 in.	4 - 6 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	60 - 65
CUCUMBER, Pickling	½ oz.	Early Green Cluster, National Pickling	Apr. 20 - May 15	1	12 in.	4 - 6 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	56 - 60
EGGPLANT	65 plants	Black Beauty	May 1 - June 30	¼	18 in.	3 ft.	6.0 - 7.0	80 - 85
ENDIVE	1 oz.	Green Curled	Feb. 1 - Mar. 15; Aug. 15 - Sept. 15	½	12 in.	12 - 24 in.	6.0 - 7.0	80 - 90
KALE	½ oz.	Dwarf Curled Scotch, Early Siberian	Feb. 15 - Apr. 1; Aug. 15 - Sept. 15	½	2 in.	18 - 24 in.	6.0 - 7.0	50 - 60

VEGETABLE SEED OR PLANT	AMOUNT FOR 100 FT. ROW	RECOMMENDED VARIETIES	PLANTING TIMES FOR N. C. PIEDMONT*	DEPTH TO PLANT (INCHES)	DISTANCE BETWEEN PLANTS	DISTANCE BETWEEN ROWS	BEST SOIL pH	DAYS TO MATURITY
KOHLRABI	½ oz.	White Vienna	Feb. 15 - Apr. 15; Aug. 1 - Sept. 15	½	4 in.	18 - 24 in.	6.0 - 7.0	55 - 60
LEEK	1 oz.	Large Flag	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	½	4 in.	12 - 18 in.	6.0 - 7.0	120 - 150
LETTUCE, Leaf	½ oz.	Salad Bowl, Buttercrunch, Black Seeded Simpson	Feb. 15 - Apr. 1; Aug. 15 - Sept. 15	¼ - ½	4 in.	12 - 18 in.	6.0 - 6.7	45 - 50
LETTUCE, Head	½ oz.	Great Lakes, Iceberg	Feb. 15 - Mar. 15	¼ - ½	12 in.	18 - 24 in.	6.0 - 6.7	75 - 85
MUSTARD	½ oz.	Southern Giant Curled, Tendergreen, Florida Broadleaf, Old Fashion	Feb. 1 - Apr. 1; Aug. 1 - Sept. 15	½	2 in.	12 - 18 in.	6.0 - 7.0	30 - 40
OKRA	2 oz.	Clemson Spineless, Perkins Long Pod	May 1 - June 1	1	12 in.	28 - 36 in.	5.5 - 6.5	50 - 60
ONION (sets)	1 quart	Silver Skin, Yellow Danvers	Feb. 1 - Mar. 15; Sept. 1 - Oct. 15	1 - 2	4 in.	12 - 24 in.	6.0 - 6.5	60 - 80
PEAS, Garden	1 pound	Super Sugar Snap (edible pod), Early Alaska, Wando, Laxton's Progress, Green Arrow	Feb. 1 - Mar. 1	2	2 - 3 in.	18 - 30 in.	6.0 - 6.5	65 - 70
PEAS, Field (cowpeas)	½ pound	Dixielee, Mississippi Silver, Queen Anne, Browneye Six Week, Pinkeye Purple Hull	Apr. 15 - July 1	1 - 2	4 in.	36 - 42 in.	5.5 - 6.5	55 - 65
PEPPER, Sweet	65 plants	California Wonder, Banana, Keystone Gt.	May 1 - May 30	½	18 in.	3 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	75 - 80
PEPPER, Hot	65 plants	Long Red Cayenne, Jalapeno M	May 1 - May 30	½	18 in.	3 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	75 - 80
POTATO, Irish	120 plants	Kennebec, Pontiac	Mar. 1 - May 15	4 - 6	10 in.	36 - 42 in.	4.8 - 5.4	100 - 120
POTATO, Sweet	100 plants	Puerto Rico, Centennial Jewel	May 15 - June 15	3 - 6	12 in.	36 - 42 in.	5.4 - 6.0	105 - 135
PUMPKIN	½ oz.	Mammoth Gold, Sugar or Pie, Big Max	June 15 - July 15	1 - 2	4 ft.	6 - 10 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	115 - 120
RADISH	1 oz.	Early Scarlet Globe, Cherry Belle, White Egg	Feb. 1 - Apr. 15; Aug. 1 - Sept. 15	½	1 in.	6 - 12 in.	6.0 - 7.0	20 - 25
RUTABAGA	½ oz.	American Purple Top	Feb. 1 - Apr. 1; Aug. 1 - Aug. 15	½	4 in.	18 - 24 in.	6.0 - 7.0	90
SPINACH	1 oz.	Dark Green Bloomsdale, Hybrid 7	Feb. 1 - Mar. 15; Aug. 1 - Sept. 1	½	4 in.	12 - 14 in.	5.6 - 6.0	45 - 50
SPINACH, New Zealand	1 oz.	New Zealand	Mar. 15 - Apr. 30	1	12 in.	24 in.	6.0 - 6.5	55 - 60
SQUASH, Summer	½ oz.	Early Summer Crookneck, Goldbar, Zucchini, Early Prolific Straightneck	Apr. 15 - May 15	1	2 ft.	3 - 5 ft.	5.5 - 6.5	50 - 60
SQUASH, Winter	½ oz.	Waltham Butternut	Apr. 15 - May 15	1	4 ft.	8 - 10 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	85 - 95
TOMATO	50 plants	Homestead, Marion, Better Boy, Big Beef	Apr. 10 - July 15	¼ - ½	2 ft.	3 - 5 ft.	6.0 - 6.5	75 - 85
TURNIP	½ oz.	Purple Top White Globe, Seven Top (greens only), Just Right Hybrid	Feb. 1 - Apr. 15; Aug. 1 - Sept. 15	½	2 in.	15 - 18 in.	6.0 - 7.0	55 - 60
WATERMELON	1 oz.	Congo, Charleston Gray #133, Crimson Sweet, Jubilee	Apr. 15 - June 1	1	3 ft.	5 - 8 ft.	5.8 - 6.2	90 - 100

*In Mountain areas, delay spring planting date 2-3 weeks; plant 2-3 weeks earlier in Fall. In the lower Coastal Plain, plant 2-3 weeks earlier in Spring and delay Fall planting 2-3 weeks. In Virginia, delay spring planting date 2-3 weeks; plant 2-3 weeks earlier in Fall. In South Carolina, plant 2-3 weeks earlier in Spring and delay Fall planting 2-3 weeks.

**Chris'**
GREENHOUSE & GARDEN CENTER
2 miles south of Bunn on NC 39

Visit our Gift Shop
for even more choices
for your home & garden.
Great Selection of
**Spring
Flags
and
Wind Spinners**

Bulk Mulches
Hardwood, Red, Chocolate,
Premium Brown;
Decorative Stone; Gravel; Topsoil
Buy Bulk • Big Savings!
Wide Selection of
**Hanging
Baskets**

**Geraniums
Are Ready!**

Monday-Saturday 8:30-5:00
252-478-4649
www.chrisgreenhouse.com

**Carrier**

**LARRY'S
SERVICE
COMPANY**
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTOR

LARRY WILDER
Owner
larrysserviceco@hotmail.com
HVAC LICENSE #9358-H2-H3
REFRIGERATION LICENSE #1962

(252) 438-8955
924 S. WILLIAM STREET
P.O. BOX 1697
HENDERSON, NC 27536
FAX (252) 438-7468

**Wammock
Utility Buildings**

RENT TO OWN
AS LOW AS
\$68 PER MONTH*

**WE WILL BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE**

**Factory Direct
#1 Grade Materials**

**Engineered Approved
Truss & Floor System**



401 Kenmore Ave., Louisburg • 919-496-2061
www.wammockutilitybuildings.com

All-natural ways to protect food gardens from pests

Homeowners frequently enhance their outdoor living spaces with attractive plants and trees. When that greenery also produces food, the results can be both beauty and bounty.

People who plant vegetable gardens and fruit trees in their yards can be blessed with an abundance of fresh pickings once it's time to harvest. In fact, many home gardeners may have visions of warm evenings pulling vegetables right out of the garden and tossing them on the grill or in salads. But insects and animals enjoy fresh produce just as people do. The joy of harvesting from a garden can be diminished when unwanted guests have gotten there first.

Homeowners can employ these all-natural strategies to protect their fruits and vegetables from lawn pests and critters.

- Plant gardens in raised beds. Though they're not a fool-proof deterrent, raised beds can eliminate some garden infiltration by small critters that come up and under

from the ground. A raised garden bed can deter rabbits, gophers, ground-hogs, slugs, and some other crawling pests. Raised beds also are economical and easily accessible.

- Prepare homemade insecticide. The environmental information site Treehugger provides information on making a homemade insecticide from vegetable oil and a mild soap. Use one cup of oil with one tablespoon of soap (such as Dr. Bronner's castile soap). Add this mixture to one quart of water in a spray bottle. This concoction can eradicate aphids, mites, thrips, and more by coating insects' bodies and effectively suffocating them. Soap-and-water sprays or even neem oil sprays work similarly.
- Sprinkle diatomaceous earth. Diatomaceous earth, commonly known as DE, is an abrasive powder comprised of fossilized algae diatoms. It's commonly used as a filter medium in swimming pools, but also makes an effective pesticide. The material's abrasive and absorbent qualities draw moisture out of



Homeowners can employ all-natural strategies to protect their fruits and vegetables from lawn pests and critters.

insects, essentially dehydrating them to death. DE can be sprinkled around the base of plants, but will need to be reapplied after rain and watering.

- Space out plants. One way to reduce insect or animal pest numbers is to ensure ample space between plants. Tightly planted crops create a breeding ground for fungal diseases and also provide hiding spots and warmth for pests. Leaving room between plants can help avoid these issues, according to Gardening Channel.
- Use row covers or garden mesh. Specialized covers and meshes protect fruit and vegetables against insects and ani-

mals. Many plants can be covered all year long as long as the covers are lifted during flowering if the crops depend on pollination by bees. Veggiemesh® is a cover that can be laid over plants.

- Interplant crops in the garden. Interplanting is a technique that involves alternating crops, herbs and flowers to confuse the pests so they have a difficult time finding what they want to eat. Alternate rows of vegetables with herbs and flowers that appeal to beneficial insects.

Keeping pesky insects and animals from damaging food gardens can involve techniques that are safe and natural.



NEUSE TILE SERVICE INC.
919-570-7400
www.NeuseTile.com

Beautiful, reliable installations backed by local, Five-Star Qualifications.



Going the Extra Mile for Your Tile Since 1964.



13948 Capital Blvd.
Wake Forest, NC
919-554-1444
www.triadequip.com



True Value RENTAL



DO THE JOB RIGHT.



RENT THE RIGHT TOOLS at TRIAD!

WE RENT:
Roto Tillers
Lawn Aerators
Bededgers
Soil Compactors
Power Augers
Brush Trimmers
Skidsteers
Backhoes
MUCH MORE!

RENT YOUR PLUG AERATOR NOW. Aeration enables your grass roots to grow deeper, making a healthier plant that better survives seasonal stress.



\$20.00 OFF
YOUR NEXT RENTAL
OF \$60.00 OR MORE.
SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. LIMIT ONE PER FAMILY. MUST PRESENT COUPON TO CLAIM. FRANKLIN GUIDE COUPON. EXPIRES 12/31/2022

True Value RENTAL.
SELLS GREAT GRASS SEED, FERTILIZER and LIME at GREAT PRICES!
GET READY FOR LEAVES WITH AN AWESOME STIHL BLOWER!



Signs that three common insects are infesting a lawn

Well-maintained laws are a byproduct of hard work. That hard work is a point of pride for homeowners who spend countless hours throughout spring, summer and fall tending to their lawns.

All that hard work can be compromised when uninvited guests, namely insects, show up in a lawn. Insect infestations can turn

a normally pristine and lush green lawn into a brown and sickly eyesore. Identifying which type of insect is damaging a lawn is the first step toward returning that lawn to its green glory. These are three common lawn insects and signs that they're infesting a lawn.

1. Grubs
Grubs like to feast on the

roots of grass right below the surface. Michigan State University Extension Turf & Landscape reports that grub damage can appear from March to early May or from mid-September to early November. The lawn and garden experts at GardenTech® note that wilted grass blades are often the first indicator of a grub infestation, which is followed by patches of brown turf and eventually death. Crows, skunks and moles eat grubs, so the sight of them in a lawn could indicate an infestation.

2. Chinch bugs
The experts at *BobVila.com* report that chinch bugs are not necessarily problematic when their populations are limited to around 10 to 15 bugs per square foot of lawn. In such instances, chinch bug populations are generally controlled by ants and ladybugs. However, extreme heat and drought, problems that have plagued various regions in North America in recent years, reduce the populations of bugs that feed on chinch bugs, thus increasing the population of these unwanted guests that feed on grass. GardenTech® indicates that damage from chinch bugs is most visible between June and September. That damage begins with grass taking on a purple tinge before it turns yellow and then brown after wilting.

3. Cutworms
The lawn care experts at Scotts® note that cutworms are moth larvae that hide in the thatch layer of a lawn during the day before emerging at night to feed on grass blades. Patches of brown grass between one and two inches in width is a sign of cutworm infestation. Homeowners who notice a growing number of birds pecking away in their lawns may have a cutworm infestation, which can be confirmed by peeling up a section of damaged grass and looking for cutworms, which are brown, gray or black and tend to be around two inches long.

The good news is that grub, chinch bug and cutworm populations can be controlled. Local turf specialists can recommend strategies to curtail such populations and help homeowners restore their lawns to full health.

SALE NOW thru MARCH 31, 2022

Toney ACE Hardware

402 S. Bickett Blvd. Louisville 919-496-7920

1120 US Hwy 1, Youngsville Crossing Youngsville 919-554-1541

Scotts® Turf Builder® Southern Lawn Food
Covers 5000 sq. ft. 7149438
Limit 2 at this price
SALE \$20.99
-\$2 WITH ACE REWARDS CARD
\$18.99 each



Miracle-Gro® Potting Mix 7104052
2 Cu. Ft. Limit 60 at this price \$13.99
-\$3 WITH ACE REWARDS CARD
\$10.99 each



Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil or Whitney Farms® Organic Raised Bed Mix, 1-1/2 Cu. Ft.
7438286, 7438336, 7505977, 7438328
Limit 60 at this price
\$10.99 -\$2 WITH ACE REWARDS CARD
\$8.99 each



Ace Yard & Garden Tools
7011414, 7011273, 7012818, 7012859, 7138555
Your Choice \$21.99 each



Ace 22" Steel Tine Rake or 24" Poly Leaf Rake
74978, 7502917
Your Choice \$11.99 each



Ace Landscape Fabric, 3' x 50'
7024620
SALE \$6.99



Songbird Selections Bird Food, 10 Lb.
8039225, 8039226, 8039227, 8039229, 8039234, 8039236, 8039237
Your Choice \$17.99 each



Ace 6 Cu. Ft. Poly Wheelbarrow
\$59.99
-\$5 WITH ACE REWARDS CARD
\$54.99



Flex Seal® • Flex Paste™ • Flex Shot® • Flex Tape® or Flex Glue® Rubber Sealants
6215107, 6238554, 6266985, 6266993, 6295950, 6406383, 6406391, 6665004, 6715171, 6004382, 6715163, 6015026, 6015027
\$12.99 each



WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS OF LAWN MOWERS!

WOOD CHIPPERS
BUY OR RENT

