



E-LO-HI VIEW

EBCI DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

When Will My Grass Start Growing?

BY CHUMPER WALKER ,
COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR

As spring hits its stride, the air around your lawn as well as your lawn's topsoil both become warmer. This double warming effect prompts germination, especially for grass seed.

The grass in your yard is one of two types: warm season or cool season. Depending on the climate your grass prefers, the ground temperature will have a significant impact on both seeds and established grass. Cool season grasses won't grow if the soil temperature rises to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, while warm season grasses won't grow until the soil temperature reaches at least 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Many of us wonder why the grass is not growing when it's 70 degrees outside. Remember air warms and cools faster than the ground.

Dormancy

When grasses go into a state of dormancy, it's kind of like a bear hibernating for the winter. There's not enough moisture for the grass, so it copes by going dormant until things start to warm up again. Here in the South, this usually starts around mid-October and ends sometime in March.

For your grass to start growing again, the soil temperature needs to reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit and stay between about 60 degrees and 85 degrees from night to day. Once temperatures soar beyond 85 degrees and stay there consistently, your grass may go dormant again — especially if it's not raining enough. If this happens, you need to water your grass regularly to make sure it doesn't die from the heat.

For more information on lawns, herbicides, and fertilization please visit NC State's TurfFiles at <https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/>



Photo: Thermometer being used to measure soil temperature



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- Horticulture Office Update
- Regulations in Commercial and Private Development
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UPCOMING DATES

- Sochan gathering permit training
 - In person: **March 16th 3:30pm-5pm**
 - TERO Technical Training Institute (Old CBC Printing location)
 - Online: **March 29th 2pm-2:30pm**
 - Microsoft Teams
- Coopers Creek Greenhouse Plant Sale
 - April 20th
- Earth Day
 - April 22
- Upcoming Tribal Holidays
 - April 14 Admin Leave
 - April 15 for Good Friday
 - April 18 for Easter
- **General Fishing Enterprise Waters Closed to Everyone**
 - Saturday, March 12 – Friday, March 25
- Opening Day Fish Tournament - \$20,000
 - Saturday, March 26 – Sunday, March 27
 - Registration Deadline – Friday, March 25
- Memorial Day Fish Tournament - \$10,000
 - Saturday, May 28 – Sunday, May 29
 - Registration Deadline – Friday, May 27
- Tim Hill Memorial Tournament - \$10,000
 - Saturday, July 9 – Sunday, July 10
 - Registration Deadline – Friday, July 8
- Qualla Country Fish Tournament - \$20,000
 - Saturday, August 27 – Sunday, August 28
 - Registration Deadline – Friday, August 26

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Basics of transplanting river cane

BY ADAM GRIFFITH,
PROJECT DIRECTOR
REVITALIZATION OF TRADITIONAL CHEROKEE ARTISAN RESOURCES

If you are thinking you want to put some river cane on your property, read on for some important information.

River cane is typically found along the sandy banks of the area's rivers like the Tuckaseegee, Little Tennessee and Valley. It can grow other places but will do best in sandy soils that drain well after a rain; Swampy wet areas are not ideal for cane.

Our office can help you with site selection and locating river cane for transplant. Winter is the best time to transplant cane because the plant is dormant. To transplant cane, find a group of 3-5 stems and dig in a circle around them to a depth of 12 inches.

Cut the rhizomes and roots and carefully lift the intact soil and plants onto heavy plastic sheeting. Tightly bundle the plastic around the stems and trim the tops of the plants off leaving the bottom half or third of the stems.

Plant at a depth of 12 inches and compact the soil to be sure no air pockets are under the surface. Spread mulch and water daily until in rains. There may not be any new growth for several growing seasons but watch out when it starts to grow because it can spread 6 – 8 feet in a single year underground.

Transplanting is not easy but is the only viable way to spread the plant since seeds are so hard to collect: the cane at Kituah last produced seeds in 2005.



Photo: Rivercane bundled and ready for transport from Warren Wilson College to Lake Logan in Haywood County. Lake Logan will allow EBCI artisans to harvest when the cane is ready.

“Winter is the best time to transplant river cane because the plant is dormant.”

— ADAM GRIFFITH

Horticulture Office Update

BY DAVID ANDERSON
HORTICULTURE OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

The growing season is almost upon us. The Horticulture Office has been busy preparing for the last few months to get ready to plant. Currently in the greenhouse we have several seedlings growing, including cabbage, broccoli, collards, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and flowers.

The office plans to offer a spring and summer plant sale this year with dates to be determined. These sales will be offered at an affordable price and at time we know is safe for the growers to be successful.

Earth Day is back on this year. It is still being planned but be on the lookout for an announcement. For Earth Day, enrolled EBCI members will be able to receive a free native plant of their choosing.

Important information for gardeners and farmers to remember are freeze-free and frost-free dates. Please consult with NC State Extension office regarding the specific dates for your area. We all get a little antsy when it comes to wanting to plant. But remember, it's important you ensure that your hard work pays off. Big box stores and other businesses will jump the gun and start selling plant materials well ahead of these dates. Don't be tempted by these marketing strategies.

If you do decide to buy plant material ahead of the safe dates, make sure that you are able to take the proper precautions to protect these plants, such as using first blankets, buckets, milk jugs, or simply storing them in a well-lit place in your home.

If you have any questions for the Horticulture Office, please contact the Horticulture Operations Supervisor David Anderson at his office 828-359-6099, or cell 828-788-3960, or by email at daviande@enci-nsn.gov.



Photos: Seedlings in the greenhouse, including cabbage, broccoli, collards, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and flowers.

If you do decide to buy plant material ahead of the safe dates, make sure that you are able to take the proper precautions to protect your plants.

—DAVID ANDERSON

Regulations in Commercial and Private Development

BY DEREK TAHQUETTE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER

For this installment of the EBCI Regulatory Office (RO) newsletter we are going to discuss commercial and private development and what possible regulatory requirements you might encounter.

Commercial projects should begin with the Commercial and Multifamily Site Development Review, this review begins with submitting basic plans or ideas to Kim Deas (828-359-6707) the Planning Coordinator for EBCI Project Management Office. Once the process has begun your plans will be sent out to various Tribal Departments for review and each office will outline any requirements you will need to comply with.

Requirements from the EBCI RO could include hazardous materials assessment for demo of older structures, floodplain requirements, erosion and sediment controls, and several other requirements depending on your projects' location, size, and current state of your site.

For smaller private developments and remodels there are fewer requirements, but they are no less important. The process for private developments is informal and requires you to work with the EBCI RO to ensure your development maintains compliance with Tribal code.

If there is demolition of older structures required for your project, then a hazardous materials assessment for asbestos and lead paint may be needed. Many contractors and vendors like Lowes and Home Depot will also require a hazardous materials assessment before they agree to take on your project.

If you are planning on remodeling or adding an addition to your structure, please contact our office before beginning work to determine what floodplain regulations apply to your site.

Please contact our office early on in your planning process to avoid any costly or lengthy delays. The numbers for the EBCI RO are (828)359-6118 & (828)359-6119.



This photo is from Tribal Housing and their Acquoni Road Housing project. This project went through a rigorous review process before beginning construction.

EBCI Tribal Cannery

BY CHRISTINE KANOTT
TRIBAL CANNERY OPERATOR

The EBCI Tribal Cannery is gearing up for another successful season. The Cannery plans to open **April 25th, 2022**. Monday-Thursday 8:00 to 4:00.

We will be processing pretty much everything from Jellies and Jams to Pie-fillings and veggies.

We will also be filling Kraut Crocks. When the signs are right per Farmer's Almanac Calendar and making Hominy from Flour Corn.

Everyone must have an appointment before hand.

Please call 828-736-9203 (leave Voice Mail or text).

Tip: Look for Jars/Lids before purchasing your produce.



Photo: Variety of canned goods

The Cannery plans to open April 25th, 2022

— CHRISTINE KANOTT