

RESOLUTIONS FOR

2010

A PLANT & SOIL GEEK IN THE NEW YEAR

GROW FOOD! EAT GOOD FOOD! Resolve to plant spicy arugula, sweet turnips, purple carrots and funky kohlrabi. Harvest your bounty and create something magical in the kitchen. A little butter, garlic, hot pepper and you might break out into a Glee inspired song and dance.



Kohlrabi comes in purple or green

TRACK DOWN THREE DIFFERENT SOIL SERIES in your county. Visit Web Soil Survey at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/> to find soils in your area and what the possibilities for land use might be (growing blueberries, installing a septic system, pasture land?). Then take a shovel or auger and dig some holes to see if you can find the different soils.

START A BLOG to share all your plant and soil geek adventures with friends. Capture the fun with video and pics. Visit: <http://nc4hplantandsoilgeek.blogspot.com/> for some initial ideas.

GROW PEANUTS. If you have never experience the peanut's life cycle, it is tremendous. Huge seeds that grow into drought tolerant plants, set flowers that bury themselves into the earth to develop fruit underground. It is a strange and thrilling experience.

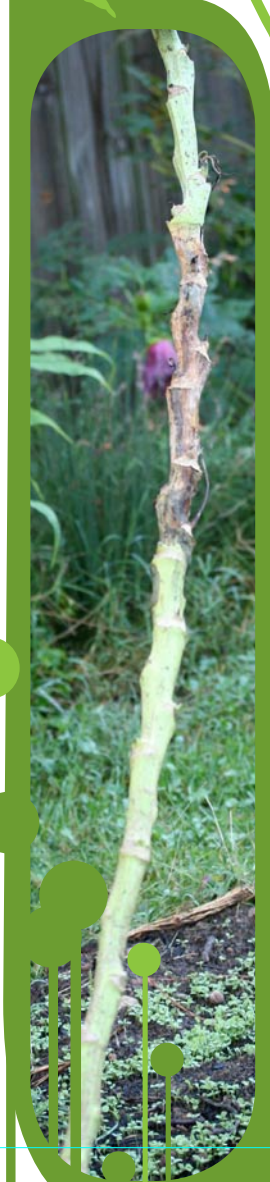
SPREAD THE PLANT AND SOIL LOVE THROUGH SONG. Take one of your favorite musical hits and transform it into a "rock" ballad. I have been reworking Cyndi Lauper's inspirational anthem into "Plants just wanna have sun." You might want to play gourd maracas, squash leaf whistles or bamboo flutes too.

SEEK OUT SEEDS FOR WEIRD AND UNUSUAL PLANTS. Grow a walking stick kale (and use it on hikes!) or a voodoo lily (*Amorphophallus*) that smells like rotting meat. Who knew plants could be so entertaining?

GROW GREEN, PINK AND BROWN COTTON. You don't even have to dye the cotton to get a colored t-shirt. How does it compare to cotton grown commercially?

AMAZE YOURSELF WITH CUCURBIT PLANTS. Grow a cucumber in a bottle and astound friends and family. Or try a VeggieForm® and observe your conforming squash smash itself into a face.

Plant walking stick kale in the spring and grow it to the desired height.



For more plant and soil ideas, visit us online at <http://ces.ncsu.edu/4hplantandsoils>