

Seeing is Believing

Your pictures show how your gardens grow



“THE STUFF” WITH PRODUCE

My son Isaac is the most precious and loving child God could have ever given to my husband and me. He loves the outdoors. Anything involving dirt just makes it better. Isaac thought he was “The Stuff” planting and gathering from the garden last summer. He was so proud of the cantaloupes he grew, and the tomatoes could hardly turn ripe before he would be pulling them. Isaac and our daughter, Zoe, have made us stop and look at how our time is spent each day. Take the time to teach your children how to garden, can and freeze produce. You will be so glad you had the time together.

*Melissa Watts, Indian Trail,
Union Power Cooperative*



CALDWELL CLAY

My family grows pesticide-free vegetables in a small garden patch we carved out of the red clay of southern Caldwell County. Pictured here are my husband, John, and son, Jackson, as they cultivate their “field of dreams.”

Candance Tippett, Granite Falls, Blue Ridge



THE TEACHER GETS HER PICK

It was such a dry time in 2007, but I was blessed with a wonderful garden. I used my water barrel and had most of my garden papered. The lady in this picture taught me how good cucumber sandwiches were. She always gets her pick from my garden.

Nancy Stanley, Roaring River, Surry-Yadkin



PEGGY’S ARRAY

A special friend, Peggy Norwood, has the most beautiful flowers. Flowers tend to volunteer for her and spring up everywhere! Her yard has the array of rainbow colors that splash joy on all who visit her. The hummingbirds and butterflies that come for quick visits are a sight to behold. She and her flowers truly bloom wherever God has planted them, touched by the Master Gardener. This is a picture of Peggy with her beautiful zinnias.

Pam Hursey, Wake Forest, Wake Electric



ON THE CONEFLOWER

We are relatively new to North Carolina, and have learned that a pickax is a useful garden tool. Through hard labor (my husband’s) and perseverance (mine, as in “Please let’s get that plant!”), we have managed to develop several gardens.

The columbine had big blossoms that seemed to dance, the amaryllis made a regal entrance, and the sunflower was dazzling. Perhaps my favorite picture, though, is of this bee busily gathering from the coneflower.

Eve Deibel, Denver, EnergyUnited



Thanks to everyone who sent pictures of your gardens.

You can see more

on our Web site. Next month we’ll publish pictures of your North Carolina vacations. [Deadline was Feb. 15.] For more themes and rules of our “Nothing Could Be Finer” series, see page 23.



THEIR FIRST PLANTING

My son and niece had their very first lesson on gardening from my sister-in-law Tara. One afternoon early in March, she came home from work toting several flats of cheery petunias, their color punctuating the end of winter, and a couple bags of luscious potting soil. The toddlers attentively and patiently listened to the planting process like racehorses chomping at the bit. After they were set loose to put their lesson into practice, they planted uncomplaining petunias into pots, mostly roots down. After they enthusiastically watered the flowers, and a great many other objects, the two budding gardeners admired and discussed their work over juice boxes and Cheerios.

Margarita Galvan, Creedmoor, Wake Electric

FIRST TENANTS

In September 2006 our family moved from Augsburg, Germany, to the Seven Lakes area in North Carolina. We



immediately fell in love with the beautiful nature around us and started to take care of our garden.

When unpacking the moving boxes we discovered a little colorful bird-house which we had bought in a tiny garden shop in the Bavarian countryside shortly before we left. We decided to hang it up and put it “on the market for rent.” Shortly after we had the “open house” a young couple moved in and made themselves comfortable. What a joy when we found out they started a family. Isn’t nature just great?

Carmen and Sven Schaefer, Seven Lakes, Randolph EMC



IF YOU DIG IT, IT WILL GROW

My husband and I were devastated when our septic lines needed to be rerouted through our beloved garden space. As the planting season arrived, workers destroyed our manure-rich soil with rock-hard red dirt. It was discouraging to say the least.

As Denny planted our sunflowers over the new septic lines, I doubted that anything would grow. The evidence is in the picture! We were blessed to watch our destroyed yard turned into a breathtaking flower garden.

Jennifer Heim, Dudley, Tri-County



“YOU LET THIS ONE GET TOO BIG”

In August 7, 1977, my family and I took a three-week trip to California. That meant we had to have somebody to look after our garden. My neighbor is a city slicker and knows little about farming. I told him to keep everything he picked and not let anything get too big.

On the way home, we picked up a 110-pound watermelon. I snuck it into my garden that night.

The next morning, I pushed my wheelbarrow to the garden and loaded it on. Then I called my neighbor to my garden and said, “You let this one get too big.”

He believed me. The next three days he brought people over to see it.

The one in the picture I did raise a few years later and it weighed 141 pounds, my record. 🍉

Talmdge Meads, Elizabeth City, Albemarle

send us your best **EARN \$50**

Here are the themes in our “Nothing Could Be Finer” series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we’ll send you \$50. You don’t have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

May 2008

A Pet’s Palace
The best home your pet ever had. Send photos, if you have them.

Deadline: March 15

June 2008

Wedding Stories
Your favorite wedding story and photo.

Deadline: April 15

July 2008

My Favorite Car
Stories and photos of the best car you ever had.

Deadline: May 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos should be a minimum of 1200 by 800 pixels.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can’t pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don’t agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Summer Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616 Or by e-mail: finer@carolinacountry.com Or online: www.carolinacountry.com