

PLANT

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Given individual flower will open up and have its pistils fertilized, without giving off any pollen ... thus functioning as a “female” flower. That same day (or evening), the plant will pull the flower under the water. The next day, the SAME flower reemerges from the surface, only this time, sheds pollen from its stamens (now, functioning as a “male” flower). At

the end of the second day, the flower disappears underwater, never to be seen again, allowing its seeds to develop, eventually released.

What a strange and wonderful pair of botanical stories!

John Nelson is the curator of the A. C. Moore Herbarium at the University of South Carolina, in the Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia SC 29208. As a public service, the Herbarium offers free plant identifications. For more information, visit www.herbarium.org or call 803-777-8196, or email nelson@sc.edu.

FRUITS

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after being picked, so must be picked fully ripe to taste their best. Plums are in this group, as are grapes, figs, melons, cherries, peaches and more. Picked under-ripe, these fruits will still soften, and some of their complex carbohydrates may break down to sugars. But those changes are more akin to the first stages of rotting than the flavor changes associated with true ripening.

GOOD STORAGE MEANS GOOD FLAVOR

Late summer and fall bring on such an abundance of fruit that eating cannot keep pace with harvesting, so storage is necessary. Most fruits store best when kept cool and in high humidity. Cool temperatures slow the ripening of mature fruits, the aging of already ripe fruits, and the growth of decay-causing microorganisms. High humidity, as well as cool temperatures, slows water loss from fruits, preventing shriveling.

For most fruits (bananas and avocados are notable exceptions), optimum storage temperatures are near freezing, with relative humidity about 90 percent. The temperature in most refrigerators is between 35 and 40 degrees F, and the relative humidity in a frost-free refrigerator is 40 percent on the shelves and 70 percent



Lee Reich via AP

Harvested grapes and apples are shown in New Paltz, N.Y. Grapes, picked dead ripe, and apples, picked mature to finish ripening indoors, are part of autumn's luscious bounty.

in the crisper. That's a bit too warm and dry, but it's a convenient place to store a small quantity of fruit. An old-fashioned root cellar provides almost ideal low temperatures and high humidity.

In late fall and winter, you may find storage areas around your home where you can keep a few bushels of seasonal fruits, such as apples, in good condition. Invest in a minimum-maximum thermometer, and check the temperatures in your garage, attic, foyer and cellar. I move bushels of apples from my garage to my foyer and then to my cool basement as outdoor temperatures turn

progressively colder. For long-term storage, maintain humidity around fruits. Pack them in plastic bags with a few holes for ventilation, in dry leaves, or — my favorite method — in plywood boxes (which “breathe” with the fruits).

Remove fruit from cold storage some time before you are ready to eat it. Fruit that was picked mature but under-ripe may need to finish ripening, which occurs more rapidly at room temperature. Even fruit that is already ripe should be allowed to reach room temperature so you can appreciate its full flavor.



WOODRIDGE MASTER BATH

RETREAT

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numerous other points of interest. The home is a serene retreat at the end of the workday. Flanking the main house at one end is a greenhouse with a stone exterior; at the other, a window-laden office with a fireplace and separate entrance. Both, with second story decks, add intrigue to the front exterior of 115 W Woodridge. The delightful stone walkway to the main entrance begs footsteps as a means of learning more about this fascinating dwelling.

A generous sense of space, belonging, and tasteful modernization greet one and all upon entering 115 W Woodridge. Luxuriant hardwood flooring and an abundance of windows allowing indoor occupants to appreciate their wooded surroundings only add to the ambiance. The first floor consists of a living room with immense seating beneath a wall of windows, a wood-burning fireplace, and built-in cabinetry; an epicurean kitchen with granite countertops, custom maple cabinets, and an adjoining dining room; a large, light-filled sunroom; a family room with built-in cabinetry, an adjoining craft room, and a ladder to a cozy loft with seating and room for yoga or play;

a half bath; and the previously mentioned greenhouse and study. A wonderful deck made of IPE Brazilian hardwood is located off the kitchen and family room, with an adjacent spa-like outdoor shower, composed of the same hardwood. Upstairs is home to a private master suite, an opulent bath, and secluded access to one of the two second level decks; three additional bedrooms (one with access to the upstairs deck on the opposite end); and two additional full baths. A partial basement of 507 square feet completes this amazing home of 3,237 heated square feet. As if all of this were not enough, a detached guesthouse of 550 heated square feet is located just beyond the main house.

“Priced at \$895,000, 115 W Woodridge is a rare find,” says Broker René Hendrickson of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. “I feel certain the Bernheim doctors would be pleased with the updates that have been made at this special property. Its character is completely captivating ... I'm excited for its next owners.”

An Open House will take place on Sunday, October 2nd, from 2 - 4 pm at 115 W Woodridge. From downtown Durham heading south on University Drive, turn right onto W Woodridge Drive just past Nana's Restaurant. 115 W Woodridge is on the left. For more information, contact René at 919-923-1377 or Rene@ReneHendrickson.com.

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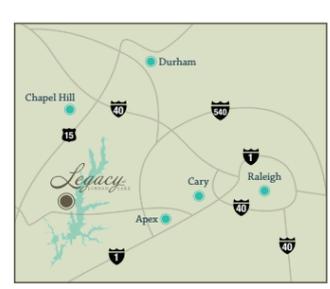


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