

NATIVE PLANTS

Transylvania County is well known for its astounding variety of native plants, which thrive here because of our abundant rainfall and gentle seasonal weather. Sadly, many of these plants have become endangered or threatened by the improper development of land.

If you want to do your part in protecting the diversity of plant life in our area, but don't feel you can adequately do the necessary research, Master Gardener Volunteers may be available to come to your property and assess



Mountain sweet pitcher plant

your plant life so that you will know what you have.

This service is free and will not obligate you in any way; it is a purely educational service. Just contact the Cooperative Extension office with your inquiries.

RESOURCES

- **NCSU/Cooperative Extension Center**
phone - 828-884-3109
web - transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu
- **City of Brevard Planning Department**
phone - 828-883-8580
web - www.cityofbrevard.com
- **Soil and Water Conservation Department**
phone - 828-884-3230
- **Transylvania County Building Department**
phone - 828-884-3209
web - www.transylvaniacounty.org
- **Transylvania County Health Department**
phone - 828-884-3135
web - www.transylvaniacounty.org
- **Transylvania County Planning and Economic Development**
phone - 828-884-3205
web - www.transylvaniacounty.org

NC Cooperative Extension/Transylvania Center
98 East Morgan Street
Brevard, NC 28712
828-884-3109
transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu

BUILDING IN THE MOUNTAINS...



*Helping People Put
Knowledge to Work*

Please Stop!

Before you allow the first clearing machine on your land, please be sure you understand the importance of the following issues, the first two of which are specific to the mountains:

- 1) *What is the best way to deal with a stream?***
- 2) *What is the best way to deal with a steep slope?***
- 3) *Where will I site my house, my well and septic tank (if you're not going to be on a community system)?***
- 4) *Will I be unnecessarily disturbing native plants?***

The mountains of western North Carolina comprise complex and varied environments. When we consider building in natural areas it is important to address the impact we have on the various plants and animals as well as the natural landscape itself.

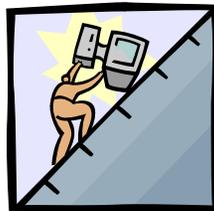
STREAMS

Did you know that one of the major polluters of streams is soil from construction? So before you let any land clearing begin, take into account the impact it will cause on streams on or around your property. After all, if you're upslope from a stream, the sediment washed offsite and downhill may disrupt your neighbors' stream.

Also, take time to learn about the nature of flowing water and how streams function. Over time streams naturally meander. Straightening streams and removing vegetation causes instability and erosion. Maintaining or creating a buffer zone of vegetation will help you save your property from being washed downstream.

SLOPES

Mountain land is just as it suggests, mountainous. Therefore when building in the mountains, it is likely that you will encounter problems dealing with the slope of your land and the threat of erosion. Over 3/4 of the land in western North



Carolina has a slope in excess of 30°, and moun-

tain soil does not act like flatland soil—it won't necessarily stay where you put it. Preventing erosion before it starts will save you money and stress. To minimize site disturbance and erosion, leave as many existing trees and plants as possible and pay proper attention to road placement, building site, and even your house plan.

WELL AND SEPTIC

If you're not tapping into a public system for water and sewer, then your well and septic systems are essential to the livability of your mountain home. Firm assessments of the slope, soil types and densities, depth of water table, and flood tendencies should be made before you purchase the land. Since all septic tanks need to be pumped periodically, your septic site should be accessible by large truck. Your County Health Department and Extension Center should be able to assist you with any questions you may encounter along the way.

