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**THE EFFECTS OF THE
WET WEATHER
SPECIAL EDITION!**

By The Yard...

HORTICULTURE

Anthracnose Diseases of Shade Trees

Anthracnose diseases occur on many landscape trees; though, in Kentucky, they tend to be most severe on ash, dogwood, maple, oak, and sycamore. They are typically foliar diseases but twigs, branches, and buds may also be affected. Twigs and branches may develop cankers or dead areas that girdle the stem, causing death of distal parts of the stem. Premature leaf drop commonly occurs on infected trees.

Anthracnose is not fatal (except for dogwoods in some circumstances); however, severe defoliation from anthracnose year after year can seriously weaken trees. Weakened trees become more susceptible to environmental stresses and secondary pathogens.

Dogwood anthracnose or lower branch dieback caused by the fungus *Discula destructiva*, because of its greater impact, is discussed in U.K. Extension publications ID-67 and PPFS-OR-W-6.

Symptoms

The symptoms of anthracnose vary somewhat from host to host.

Ash

Buds, leaves, and sometimes twigs can become infected. In early spring, infection

of buds or expanding leaves results in irregular brown blotches and distortion of leaflets. These blotches are often associated with leaf margins. Infections that occur once leaves have already expanded result in small brown circular lesions. As these lesions enlarge, they may coalesce. Infected leaflets frequently drop from the tree leaving a carpet of leaflets on the landscape below. Although shoots may become stunted, infection on ash does not result in conspicuous twig or branch cankers.

Maple

Infection of this host results in irregular necrotic leaf lesions



that vary in size and shape. At least two different anthracnose fungi may be involved. On Norway maple, lesions are purple to brown and follow the veins. Leaves of Japanese maple blacken and shrivel up. Brown to reddish brown lesions form along or between veins of sugar maple.

Symptoms on sugar maple can be confused with scorch symptoms. Twig infections result in blighting and death of shoot tips.



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Anthracnose Diseases of Shade Trees (con't.)

Oak

If oaks are infected early, buds may be killed before they begin to open in spring. As a consequence, twigs remain bare and eventually die.

Later, new shoots may grow from the lower branch. If this occurs repeatedly, clusters of dead twigs at the ends of branches produce a witch's broom effect.

When infection occurs during leaf expansion, distortion of leaves results. In addition, brown necrotic lesions form at leaf tips and along veins. On fully expanded leaves, infection causes irregular brown spots that eventually enlarge and coalesce. Oak twig infections can cause twig cankers and dieback of developing shoots in spring.

Sycamore

The early leaf blight stage of anthracnose in sycamore causes complete death of young leaves and twigs. Twig infection can cause shoot tips to die back as much as 8 to 10 inches. Cankers may also form on major branches and limbs. Later, leaf infections cause brown, irregular dead areas along veins or leaf margins. As is common



with anthracnose on other hosts, affected leaves may drop prematurely. However, on sycamore trees, a new healthy crop of leaves may form later in the season.

Spread

Anthracnose on these hosts is caused by several species of closely related fungi with names such as *Apiognomonia*, *Discula*, *Gnomonia*, *Gloeosporium*, and *Kabatella*. These fungi overwinter in margins of twig and branch cankers and twigs on the ground. During cool, wet weather in spring, fungal spores are discharged from overwintering fruiting bodies. Infected buds are killed and previous season's cankers expand further. Spores are carried by wind or splashing rain to emerging shoots and leaves.

Control

1. Prune out infected twigs and branches.
2. Gather and destroy fallen leaves and twigs in autumn.
3. Fungicide sprays are generally not warranted. However, if the tree is a valuable one or if it has been attacked year after year, a fungicide spray program may be justified. Three sprays should be applied in spring: at bud break, when leaves are half-expanded, and when leaves are fully expanded.

These chemicals are protectants and therefore must be applied before infection occurs. Once symptoms develop, it is too late to apply fungicides for controlling anthracnose. Contact Fayette County Extension office for a listing of suggested fungicides.

Source: John R. Hartman, University of Kentucky, Plant Pathology

Hollies and Cottony Camellia Scale



Cottony camellia scale is a soft scale that feeds on camellia, holly, yew, euonymus and maple. It is also reported on beautyberry, jasmine, mulberry, and hydrangea. Adult females are about

1/8 inch long, oval and yellowish tan with a brown margin. They lay white cottony ovisacs (egg masses) on the undersides of leaves in April and May.

Crawlers hatch through June and remain on the

undersides of the leaves through winter. Heavy infestations in the spring may cause the leaves to turn light green. Honeydew and sooty mold are the primary problem caused by this insect. If infestations are heavy and sooty mold is objectionable, spray horticultural oil in the dormant season. During the growing season use horticultural soap or oil to conserve beneficial. The systemic Insecticide Imidacloprid is effective against these soft scales and may be applied in water to the soil around the base of the plant.

Strange Things Growing in the Mulch!

Each year we get several reports from people who find things growing in the mulch they use around the landscape. Sometimes these organisms are downright bizarre-like the dog vomit fungus (actually a slime mold) that makes a dinner plate sized colony of orange/yellow growth. Another is the artillery fungus that shoots tiny black spores onto the surface of surrounding structures (buildings, cars, etc.). Generally speaking, these fungi are only a nuisance and are not harmful to plants growing around them. Furthermore, they are short lived and usually complete their life cycles in a few days to a few weeks and then disappear. If you would like to avoid the growth of



such fungi, here are some suggestions:

- Use mulch that has been thoroughly composted-you can tell the composting is thorough if the mulch does not heat up when left in a pile for a few days.
- Use mulch that is high in bark content and low in wood content since most of these fungi prefer to feed on decaying wood.
- Keep the mulch moist since this promotes the growth of non-nuisance bacteria and fungi that out-compete the nuisance fungi for nutrients.
- Do not mulch more than about 2 inches deep.

Avoid sour mulch that smells strongly of vinegar since this can be a good medium for nuisance fungi and sour mulch will also harm landscape plants.

Source: Jeff Porter-, Henderson County Horticulture Agent

Timely Tomato Tips



Since tomatoes are one of the most popular plants for home gardens I thought I would devote some space to several common problems and practices that can help you avoid pitfalls.

Practice crop rotation-if you grow tomatoes in the same location year after year you will likely have a build up of disease organisms. Move tomatoes each year even if it means using a different corner of the garden for a four year cycle. If space is severely limited you might grow tomatoes in a container for a couple of years while using legumes or cover crops to replenish the soil.

When planting, remove lower leaves and lay the stem horizontally in a shallow trench then cover all but the leafy end with soil.

Tomatoes planted in this manner will root along the stem resulting in a much larger root system.

Mulch tomatoes to conserve moisture. Not only will this help avoid blossom end rot, which is exacerbated by moisture fluctuations, but may help reduce the occurrence or certain diseases that infect plants from soil splashed onto the leaves of the plants.

When watering, water deeply and be careful not to wet foliage. Many common diseases are fungal and are spread by splashing water.

Use large tomato cages to grow better fruit. Tomatoes that are left to sprawl on the ground are much more likely to have problems. Concrete reinforcing wire from home improvement stores can be fashioned into inexpensive wire cylinders for huge tomato cages. Larger rolls are a better value and you will need about 5' of wire per cage, so see if your neighbors or friends would like to split a roll with you.

Provide plenty of room for air circulation. Crowded plants that don't receive good air movement are much more likely to have problems.

Monitor plants closely for problems, many diseases can be kept in check by removing and disposing of a few infected leaves. Be careful to not spread the disease in the process. Dispose of leaves outside of the garden and do not add to compost.

Look for disease resistant plants, hybrid varieties often have letters after the name on the tag that represent resistance to certain diseases (V,F,N,T, etc.) these are less likely to have problems.

If you rarely have problems consider growing heirloom or open pollinated varieties. While generally more prone to disease, many of these older varieties offer phenomenal tastes and unique flavors that can justify a little extra effort or lower yields.

Source: Jamie Dockery, Fayette County Horticulture Agent

Quick tips for June

- Prune evergreen shrubs now through late August.

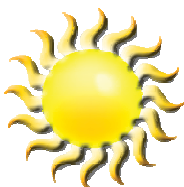


- Mound soil around potato plants to improve quality.

- Thin fruits on fruit trees when they reach the size of a dime. Leave one fruit for every 6-8" of branch.

- Mow grass at three inches for a healthier lawn. Leave clippings on lawn for a natural source of fertilizer.

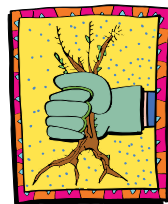
- Use chemical controls as a last resort. Patrol plants regularly for insects and hand pick before populations explode. If you must resort to chemicals avoid spraying during the heat of the day and ALWAYS read and follow label directions.



- Remove flower buds from culinary herbs to keep them growing and productive.

- Keep mower blades sharpened. Clean cuts make for less disease problems and easier mowing for you.

- Mulch plants for the summer. It will conserve moisture in hot weather and prevent weeds from growing.



- Keep gardens and beds well weeded. Weeds compete for light and nutrients, reducing yields. By preventing weeds from setting seed you will lessen weed problems in future years.

- Pinch chrysanthemums back every few weeks until mid July. This will promote fuller bushier plants that are less likely to fall over when in bloom.

- Start planning your fall vegetable plantings now. Many cool season crops like lettuce, peas, and cole crops will be finished from the spring planting and can be planted again in late July and August for a fall crop.



Recipe - Raw Beet Salad

1/2 pound beets

3 tablespoons freshly squeezed orange juice

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
(optional lemon zest)

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

2 tablespoon minced chives, mint or parsley (or a combination)

Salt to taste

Leaves of 1 romaine heart



Peel the beets with a vegetable peeler, and grate in a food processor fitted with the shredding blade.

Combine the orange juice, lemon juice and olive oil. Toss with the beets and herbs. Season to taste with salt. Line a salad bowl or platter with romaine lettuce leaves, top with the grated beets and serve.

Yield: Serves four.

Source: Debra Weller, Fayette County Extension Staff Support

GARDENER'S TOOLBOX CLASSES 2011

If you have not signed up, do so now, classes are filling up!

Call the Fayette County Extension Office at (859) 257-5582 to have the class listing and registration mail to you or visit our website at:

http://ces.ca.uky.edu/fayette-files/Horticulture/Gardeners_Toolbox_2011PDF.pdf

Gnats and Midges A Result of Excessive Rains



Gnats or midges are common names for small, non-biting flies that are closely related to mosquitoes. They can vary from light green to shades of brown and can range from 1/8- to almost 1/2-inch long, depending on the species. The males have distinctive fuzzy antennae.

Large swarms can appear suddenly after extended rainy periods; fortunately they just last for a few days. Gnats can be very annoying but they do not bite or feed at all. They may be attracted to lights at night or to light colored surfaces or clothing. Generally, they die soon after mating and laying eggs.

The larvae or immature stages develop in wet soils and seepage areas with lots of organic matter. Wet grass thatch is a good breeding site for some, while others develop in or around puddles or wet leaves. There are many potential sources of gnats around a landscape or

community. Fortunately, most will dry up and not be suitable for gnats in a few days.

There are no good alternatives for control of gnats. Pressurized aerosol sprays containing pyrethrins are sold for mosquito and gnat control but these are impractical for treating anything other than very small areas. These products only kill insects that are directly hit by spray particles; there is no lasting or residual effect.

Many of the insecticides labeled for controlling insects on trees and shrubs will kill gnats that land to rest on treated foliage or other surfaces but more gnats usually appear. Also, sprays applied to kill gnats can kill natural enemies that feed on landscape plants. This may cause more injury to plants later in the summer. Repellents used for mosquitoes and other biting flies are not effective against gnats.

Sunny dry weather is the best cure for gnats and other problems associated with excessive rains.

Source: Lee Townsend, University of Kentucky, Entomology



Fayette County 4-H Pumpkin Growing Contest



Sponsored By:
Mahan Sod Works

Try your hand at growing the largest pumpkin in Fayette County! Fayette County 4-H is announcing a pumpkin growing contest for youth residing in Fayette County, 9-19 years old. Participation ribbons will be awarded to everyone who enters and generous cash prizes are being offered to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place contestant in each age division (Junior 9-11 yrs., Intermediate 12-14 yrs. and Senior 15-19 on 1/1/2011).

1st Place - \$30.00, 2nd Place - \$20.00, 3rd Place - \$10.00

Participants will be required to have photos of him/her planting and caring for their pumpkins and regular photos of the pumpkin as it grow. These photos will be brought to the Fayette County 4-H Field Day on September 20th at the Bluegrass Fairgrounds at Masterson Station Park. The pumpkins will be judged by weight, appearance and the photo presentation. We ask that each contestant do as much of the planting and caretaking as possible but parent or other adult help is welcome.

The deadline for entering the 4-H Pumpkin Growing Contest is June 15th, 2011. Please call the Fayette County Extension Office at (859)257-5582 or email Steve Musen at steve.musen@uky.edu to enter and include your name, mailing address, phone number/email address and age as of 1/1/2011. After we receive your entry, we will mail you a package with 5 pumpkin seeds (you must use the seeds provided), instructions on how to plant and care for you growing pumpkin plant and complete contest rules.

Good Luck!

Pest Patrol: Ways To Control Adult Mosquitoes



Eliminating breeding sites remains the best way to prevent mosquito problems. Since some mosquitoes fly long distances, you also might need to take actions against incoming adults.

Mosquitoes can ruin summertime activities by the irritation of their bites and annoyance of their buzzing. Additionally, some mosquitoes can transmit serious diseases like malaria and encephalitis, including the form of encephalitis known as A West Nile, to humans and horses as well as heartworm to dogs.

You can do several things to reduce adult mosquito problems around your home.

To keep mosquitoes out of your home, securely screen windows, doors and porches. Use a fly swatter or perhaps an aerosol insecticide to eliminate occasional mosquitoes found indoors. Always use an insecticide labeled for mosquitoes, gnats and other flying insects and follow the instructions for use.

Mosquito repellents will help prevent bites when you spend time outdoors. The most effective products contain DEET (active ingredient diethyl toluamide).

Generally, the higher percentage of DEET, the longer duration protection.

Low-percentage formulations are available to use on younger children. Do not apply mosquito repellent to young children's hands. Always wash treated skin with soap and water when children return indoors.

Remember to read and follow application directions on the container.

Since adult mosquitoes like to rest in dense



vegetation during the day, keep your yard free of tall weeds and grass.

If adult mosquito populations become intolerable around your home, consider applying a properly labeled insecticide to the lower limbs of shade trees, shrubs, shaded areas adjacent to the foundation and the periphery of your yard.

Lawn and garden insecticides are effective, but of limited duration and might need to be reapplied. Look for insecticides registered for adult mosquito control on lawns and vegetation containing carbaryl, malathion or synthetic pyrethroids such as permethrin, cyfluthrin, bifenthrin or lambda cyhalothrin. To thoroughly wet foliage, consider a concentrate you can dilute in water and apply with a hose-end sprayer.

Many consumer products, including bug zappers, citronella candles, ultrasonics and mosquito-repelling plants, claim to attract, repel or kill outdoor mosquito infestations. However, most don't work or are marginally effective in reducing outdoor mosquito populations and their biting activities. Studies indicate that of the mosquitoes killed by bug zappers using ultraviolet light as an attractant less than five percent are females -- the only ones that actually bite.

To increase the effectiveness of citronella candles, place several within a few feet of where people are located.

For more information on controlling home pest problems, contact Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service.

Source: Mike Potter, University of Kentucky, Entomology



**Make plans to visit the Lexington Lions Club Bluegrass Fair
July 14-24, 2011**

**To see all the Fayette County Extension Events/Activities
Watch your mail in early July for complete details.....**

Stinkhorn Fungus



Due to the recent wet weather, a number of my neighbors have asked, "What are the awful smelling, slimy orange 'lilies' mysteriously growing in our yard and garden mulch?" It is probably a fungus known as

Stinkhorn. Because of damp, mild conditions, you are hosting a type of poisonous mushroom, unappetizing and unappealing at best. Stinkhorn fungi come in a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes.

The term "fungi" is commonly used for several groups of plants that, lacking chlorophyll, grow as parasites or as saprophytes. The majority of non-flowering plants are classified fungi. Fungi produce asexual spores which, when released in black clouds from a ruptured casing, are dispersed by animals, wind, and water.

Although fungi may be a visual nuisance to the home gardener, they are a necessary part of the process that gives us the rich soils we crave in our gardens. Fungi and bacteria break down organic compounds returning them to air and soil. Since fungi are simple non-flowering plants without leaves or chlorophyll, they cannot produce their own food. They must live by taking their nourishment from other hosts--plants and debris.

Fungi spoil oranges, but give blue cheese its flavor. Other molds furnish medicines: penicillin and antibiotics. We tend to associate rotting, nasty things with fungi, but in fact, fungi play an important role in the balance of nature.

Stinkhorn mushrooms are in the class Basidiomycota, order *Phallales Stinkhorn*. They are in the group Gasteromycetes. Stinkhorn fungi may be identified as small, lattice, columnar, "dog," common and collared. The fungus first appears as an egg-shaped "golf ball" remaining underground or under mulch until spores mature. As weather conditions become favorable, a structure emerges from a pouch or peridium. The Columnar Stinkhorn opens to reveal a structure of four or five cinnabar-red, spongy, curved columns united at the top and containing slimy masses of foul-smelling, fetid, sticky spores. If you are not impressed by this

colorful show, realize that you are quite defenseless against nature which has also provided flies and gnats to feed upon the spores and spread the fungi!

The alternatives to ridding your garden of these stinky guests are temporary and few. Wear a clothes clip on your nose and, using rubber gloves, dig, and bag the beasties, or practice your golf swing when they are in the white, round, ground-level stage of development! Either way, you lose to the stinky Stinkhorn.

The scope of non-flowering plants includes some of the most fascinating, yet least understood of all plants. Many species of mushrooms are delicacies sought after by gourmet cooks. Others can be deadly and poisonous. Non-flowering plants are both interesting and important to us. A wide collection of books about these plants is available for reading and study. Look in your schools, libraries, and nearby book stores to find colorful and informative references suitable for both children and adults.

Source: *North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service*

Big Event

Attention Daylily Lovers!

Annual Blue Grass Hemerocallis (Daylily) Show and Sale

June 19th at the Lexington Green Mall
(Lower Level - Fountain)

Featuring Flower Judging and
Hybrid Daylilies for Sale

AHS entries received from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
(judging begins at 11:00 a.m.)

Open to the public after 1:00 p.m. -
also featuring Lilies to purchase.

For more information contact Susan :
1-859-252-9650

Please go to our Website at :
www.daylilyfans.com/bghs

Come join us to see these fantastic beauties!!!

Membership applications will be available!



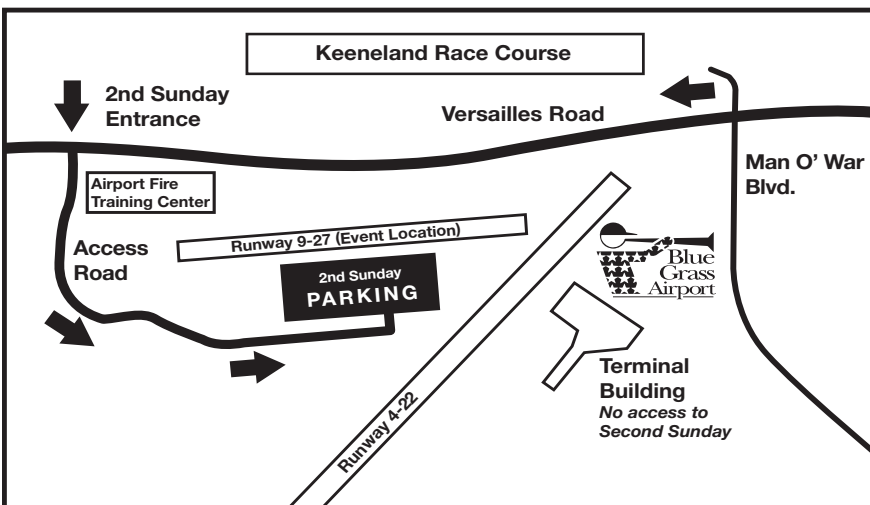
Blue Grass Airport



2nd Sunday at Blue Grass Airport
June 12, 2011 • 1-5 pm
Free Fitness Event on Runway 9-27



As part of the 2nd Sunday initiative, you are invited to participate in your favorite fitness activities on the airport's runway during 2nd Sunday at Blue Grass Airport.



Bring your bikes, rollerblades, Frisbees and sporting equipment!

A variety of aircraft and safety vehicles such as helicopters, fire engines, police vehicles will be on display for families to explore.

Areas will be available for picnicking and watching the airplanes landing and taking off on the nearby commercial runway.

And, register to win a free trip to Florida, courtesy of Allegiant Air and Blue Grass Airport.



**HORTICULTURE CONTEST and
STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**

Blue Grass Goes Green

July 16-17, 2011

MASTERTON STATION PARK

3051 Leestown Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

SHOW HOURS

3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Free with Fair Admission

Sponsored by

**THE FAYETTE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION**

and

THE LEXINGTON COUNCIL GARDEN CLUBS

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