

The Hoe Truth Newsletter

Helping You Dig Up Gardening Ideas

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HORTICULTURE

EARWIGS

By Lee Townsend



Earwigs are distinctive insects that are easy to identify by the pincer-like tails on the end of their bodies. They have an intimidating appearance and can produce a foul odor but are mostly just a nuisance to homeowners and gardeners. Earwigs can pinch slightly with their forceps but cannot harm people or animals.

Earwigs are active at night and may be attracted to lights. They can enter buildings where they feed on sweet, oily or greasy foods or houseplants. These insects can run very fast but migrate only short distances.

Earwigs thrive in narrow crevices in shady, moist places such as foundation plantings, mulched areas, compost piles, and accumulations of trash, boards or wood. They usually congregate during the day under objects which are laying on the ground or are stacked against walls. Earwigs will eat most anything, including plants, small insects, and decaying organic matter. They can seriously damage flowers,

vegetables, fruits and other plants, as they chew small, irregular holes in the leaves.

The first step in control involves eliminating as many outdoor hiding spots and breeding sites as possible. Eliminate damp, moist conditions in crawlspaces, around outdoor faucets, and air-conditioning units. Be sure that downspouts carry water away from the foundation. Use caulking compound, putty and weather stripping around doors, windows, pipes and other entry sites, especially at the ground level. Create a clean, dry border immediately around the foundation wall.

Accumulations of earwigs can be killed by direct application of Insecticidal Soap but there is no residual activity from this product. Barrier applications of insecticides (3' to 10' wide around foundations) with products such as Bayer Lawn and Garden Multi-Insect Killer, diazinon, Dursban (chlorpyrifos), Sevin, or Tempo can be used. Treat during late spring and summer to control young earwigs. This will slow the population buildup.



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Earwigs can be trapped outdoors in cardboard boxes baited with oatmeal or bran with pencil hole size entry sites punched in the sides near the bottom. Place boards, newspapers or other **COVER** in mulch, shrubbery and similar habitats to collect individuals the following day. These can be physically destroyed.

Where earwigs are regular

To Do List For July

Mulching in the vegetable garden can conserve as much as 50% of the moisture, help prevent leaching, keep soil loose, and reduce soil splashing thus reducing disease problems.

Vegetable garden mulch can consist of plastic sheeting, landscape fabric, grass clippings, straw, and even newspaper.

If you don't want to use pesticides on your vegetable crop try insecticidal soap. It can kill aphids, mealy bugs, scale, and spider mites.

If you use horticultural oil take care to not spray in extremely dry conditions or when temperatures are above 90 degrees.

If you have had a problems with squash vines wilting in the past spray the base of each plant with sevin. This will kill the squash vine borer as it tries to get into the squash vine.

If blossom end rot is or has been a problem in your garden it is most likely a moisture problem. However, if you keep your garden evenly moist get a soil test done to make sure you don't have a calcium deficiency.

After you pick your first tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers sprinkle a tablespoon of ammonium nitrate around each plant to give them a boost of energy for the next fruit set.

Water your garden approximately 1 inch per week if we continue with drought conditions.

Keep an eye on summer squash and zucchini, they can grow quite large in a couple of days. If you don't pick them in time they may become too large and slow veggie production.

Start fall garden plants in July. This includes cole crops such as broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower.

Now is a good time to divide bearded iris and replant. Simply dig the plants up, break root pieces off with at least one fan and replant. Don't plant too deep, one inch is plenty.

Keep an eye on outdoor planters and hanging baskets. They will dry quickly in the July heat and may need watering twice daily. Also, the more you water the quicker the fertilizer is flushed so you will want to fertilize at least once per week.

To control powdery mildew on begonia, phlox, rose, and zinnia spray immunox once per week while disease is present.

For control of black spot on roses spray with banner maxx, immunox, mancozeb or other approved fungicides based on label recommendations.

Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage

rebloom.

Don't collect grass clippings unless it is clumping. This probably hasn't and won't be a problem this summer do to the drought.

If you water your lawn water infrequently and deeply preferably in the early morning.

Don't fertilize turf now, wait until later this fall.

Don't mow during midday heat if it is dry. This will further stress the turf and cause it to brown out quicker.

If you have had problems with pine needle scale in the past apply malathion, orthene, or insecticidal soap in mid July.

Spray evergreens for bagworms using sevin, orthene, or Bt.

Don't prune trees and shrubs now.

Continue to apply cover sprays to fruiting crops. Even if you won't have fruit this year by keeping the plant and leaves healthy you are far more likely to have a good crop next year.

Thin strawberry rows to maintain about five to seven plants per square foot.

Black and purple raspberries should be tip pruned to force lateral growth which will increase next years crop. (if you have that type or raspberry)

Watering The Garden

The amount of water that your garden will need is going to depend on the weather conditions in our area. The primary rule of summer watering is to water thoroughly and deeply each time and to allow the soil to dry out between waterings. As a general rule most garden plants grow adequately with one inch of water per week. Deep watering will encourage plants to grow deep roots which in turn will help them withstand drought condi-



tions if they develop. It will also help to anchor them in the ground. Light, surface watering actually wastes water because the water never actually reaches the root zone of the plant and the moisture rapidly evaporates from the top inch of soil. The best way to tell if your plants are receiving enough water is to take a trowel or shovel and dig down a few inches. The soil should be moist at least 3 or 4 inches deep to insure that the water is reaching the root zone of the plants. As the weather

dries out, your container plants may need daily watering, especially if the pots are exposed to direct sunlight. Push your finger into the soil in your container plantings at least once a day (*more often on hot, dry days*) to feel for moisture and be certain that plants are getting enough water. Apply water until it runs out of the drainage holes. Water during the morning hours so that the leaves can dry off before dark. The longer the plants leaves remain wet the more chance for disease to develop. Evening water is alright if done early enough for leaves to dry before dark.

UK Turfgrass Research Field Day is July 9

By Katie Pratt

LEXINGTON, Ky., (June 17, 2009) – The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture will host a free Turfgrass Research Field Day July 9 at the Turf Research Center at Spindletop Farm in Lexington. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. EDT. Turfgrass industry professionals, garden center employees, UK College of Agriculture extension professionals, employees and turfgrass students are invited to attend.

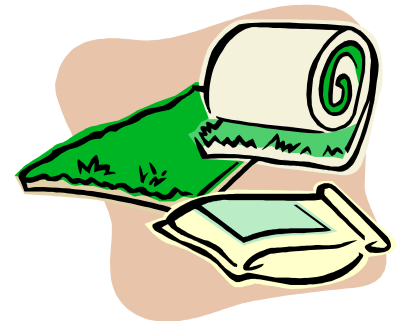
“This is really the only turfgrass research location in Kentucky where you can visit the research plots and talk with researchers and graduate students about current research and turfgrass management practices,” said A.J. Powell, UK turfgrass extension professor.

Participants can choose three of five wagon-ride research tours. Each tour will run about an hour and will repeat hourly at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. Research tours include turf and ornamental entomology, golf course-bentgrass, warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses and weed control and pro-active ecological activities. Attendees can receive one pesticide applicator CEU for each tour. Information about specific tour subjects and speakers can be found at <http://www.uky.edu/ag/ukturf>.

Complimentary refreshments and lunch will be served. The lunch is sponsored by the Kentucky Turfgrass Council.

The field day will conclude at 12:45 p.m.

To get to the Spindletop Turfgrass Research Farm from Interstate 75, take the Kentucky Horse Park/Ironworks Pike exit, travel one mile past the Horse Park and follow the Field Day signs. From Interstate 64 or New Circle Road, take the Newtown Pike exit, travel north to Ironworks Pike, turn left, and follow the Field Day signs.



HORTICULTURE CALENDAR-JULY

Farmers Market open every Wednesday evening from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

Farmers Market open every Saturday morning from 8:00 A.M. until noon.

July 20, 6:30 P.M. at St. Rose Hall, Lincoln Trail Beekeepers Association

July 23, Washington County Garden Club meeting time and activity to be announced.

EARWIGS CONTINUED

household invaders, use any of the insecticides labeled for indoor application against cockroaches to reduce their numbers until outdoor control has been accomplished.

Female earwigs lay 50 to 90 white eggs in below-ground chambers. They prefer rich soils with a southern exposure. Females provide some care of small nymphs, or immature stages, for a time. Earwig nymphs are lighter in color than the adults, do not have wings, and much smaller pincers on the rear of the body. There is a spring brood

Plant of The Month Triple Crown Blackberry

Triple Crown Blackberry is a vigorous variety consistently producing plentiful yields of large, tasty fruit in Kentucky. Its dense foliage cover reduces problems with sun scald and it ripens in late June through mid July. It is an excellent, semi-erect thornless variety.



Zones: 5 - 9 (-10° F.)

Height: 10-12 ft (need trellis)

Spacing: 4 feet

rows 12 feet apart

Depth: Same depth as they were in the nursery.

Spread: 6-7 ft

Sun/Shade: Full Sun

Pollinator: Self-pollinating

Yield: 4-6 quarts

Foliage: Deep

Green

Blooms: Mid season

Fruit: Mammoth size fruit with excellent flavor

Comments: Summer Tipping recommended once or twice per season. One of the best blackberries ever! High yielding thornless variety.

For more information on growing blackberries in Kentucky call the Washington County Extension Office at 336-7741

A Note From Dennis

It seems as if the growing season just started but its almost half over, time flies! The vegetable garden is in full swing and I have to admit I love this time of year, you can have a whole meal right from your own garden. This is the only time of year I could actually be a vegetarian!

So far we have had rain and it is nice to go into July with everything still green for a change. Some people have been complaining about the rain but if and when it stops it only takes two weeks in Kentucky for everything to start to turn brown. I am pulling for a green summer personally!

With the rain the disease situation on tomatoes is getting pretty rampant so a few sprays of Maneb, Mancozeb, or Daconil should extend the production time by a few weeks. Happy Gardening!

Dennis Moyer