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Jacob Barber,

For any meeting in this newsletter, persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting the Extension Office where the meeting will be held by phone, email, or in person at least 7 days prior to the event.

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The Horticulture Scoop

Plant Disease and Insect Clinic

Throughout the year, the PDIC had a monthly program called “Plants, Pests and Pathogens.” There has been a live Zoom meeting each month that consisted of various topics such as Current Plant and Disease Issues in NC and Grass and Sedges.

To find other meetings and information about this program please go to this link: <https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/programs-3/plants-pests-and-pathogens/>.

To have a plant tested or an insect identified, reach out to the our office, so we can provide you with more information about pricing, how to correctly harvest the samples, and how to submit them. For more information, use the link: <https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/plantpath/extension/clinic/index.html>

Soil Sample Fees

Soil samples are **FREE** now until December 1. NCDA & CS are taking routine soil samples now and estimates a process time of 2 to 3 weeks.

Ag'em Up Review

This year Ag'em Up was a three day event. The field day was held on October 11, 12 and 13. Due to the pandemic we were not able to conduct the original two day event at the Bladen County Parks and Recreation field. However, we modified the event to the best of our ability to bring the field day to the schools. Taking precautions such as wearing masks and applying hand sanitizer to students was our main focus.



Picture 1

With the help of NC Cooperative Extension - Bladen County Center, Bladen Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bladen County Farm Bureau, Cape Fear Farm Credit, Bladen County Livestock Association, Four County Electric, Smithfield Hog Production, Prestage Farms, East Bladen High School FFA, West Bladen High School FFA, Bladenboro Middle School FFA and the Bladen County Board of Education, we were able to create a great learning experience for the elementary students.

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Ag'em Up Day Review (Continued)



Over the three day event, we traveled to 8 different schools. The first day we attended Elizabethtown Christian Academy and East Arcadia. The second day we attended Bladenboro Primary, Dublin Primary and Plainview. The third day we attended Bladen Lakes, Elizabethtown Primary and lastly Emereau. The students and teachers were able to have a first hand experience about the number one industry in Bladen County- agriculture.

Picture 2 During the field day students and teachers rotated between 5 stations representing different commodities and fields of agriculture you might find in Bladen County, as well as a presentation on nutrition. There were over 50 volunteers including middle and high school agriculture students that helped teach the students and provide assistance to keep the event running smoothly. The 3rd graders and their teachers learned about livestock such as poultry, swine and beef, row crops, horticulture, beekeeping with the help of one of our local beekeepers, soils and the environment. Within each station, the lessons and hands-on interactions between the student and the presenters made the experience memorable.



Picture 3



Picture 4

Ag'em Up Field Day is an annual event in Bladen County that occurs in October. This is a valuable event for our youth within the county. It helps them to recognize at an early age the enormous amount of opportunities within this industry from nutrition to livestock. Agriculture plays a crucial part of our everyday life and it's important for the student to understand that. What better way to help them understand than to have them see it firsthand!

Picture Captions

- 1) Olivia Antonio, Extension Farmworker Educator, is talking to students from Emareau about the swine industry in Bladen County and letting the students pet the piglets.
- 2) Karen Davis from the Soil and Water Conservations Service is explaining the difference in size between sand, silt and clay to East Arcadia Students.
- 3) Bladen County Beekeeper, Luke Elkins, educates students from Elizabethtown Christian Academy (ECA) about the importance of pollinators, specifically honey bees.
- 4) Matthew Strickland, Field Crops and Commercial Horticulture Agent, teaches students from ECA about row crops and shows them how to use a corn sheller.

Green Thumb Gardening: To-Do's for the Winter Months

During these cold months, there will be a lot of time for you to prepare for the upcoming spring. If you still have your fall garden, then maintenance should be your focus as of now. If you are still inclined to add to your garden there is still time!

E = Eastern, **P** = Piedmont, **W** = Western

B = Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers

*Start seeds indoors for later transplant in the garden. Do not plant seeds directly in the garden.

Fruit, Herb, or Vegetable	Days to Harvest (from seed unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
			Asparagus	C = 2 years	18 in			E	E	E																E
					P	P	P																P	P	P	
							W	W	W	W																
Garlic	B = 180 – 210	4 – 6 in																	E	E	E	E	E			
																			P	P	P	P	P			
																		W	W	W	W	W				
Onions, bulb	B = 75 – 105 S = 90 – 120	4 in	E	E	E	E	E	E									E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
			P	P	P	P	P	P									P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
					W	W	W									W	W									

This chart can be found at <https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NC-Vegetable-Planting-Guide-1.pdf?fwd=no>

These are just a few different vegetables that you can plant in the months of November and December. Please contact Bladen County Cooperative Extension if you have any question about planting herbs or other vegetables.

Gardening Tips for November and December:

1. Now is a great time to get your soil samples in before 12pm on Monday November 29. North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services charges \$4 a sample from December 1 to March 31, 2021.
2. Remove fallen leaves and fruits beneath trees, container garden and shrubs.
3. If you haven't already, be sure to apply pre-emergent pesticides to prevent winter weeds.
4. It is the time to plant your spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, crocus, hyacinths and tulips.
5. When chrysanthemums stop blooming cut them back close to the ground
6. It's a great time to take hardwood cuttings for propagation. If you have questions about hardwood or softwood cuttings, please let me know!
7. Tilling your garden now would be a great way to open the insects and weed seed to the winter and birds that would otherwise overwinter.
8. Keep fruit trees and shrubs clean to reduce future problems; picking up fallen branches and fruit prevent to future disease.

Current County Issues: Moles and Voles

There are many different calls about landscaping that I receive in the office. Lately, there have been a number of calls made about possible mole or vole issues. They can cause great destruction to your lawn and landscape. The main question asked is, “How do I get rid of them?” The first step to getting rid of them is to figure out which critter it actually is: a mole or a vole.

The differences between a Mole and a Vole



Eastern Mole



Pine Vole

Photos by Marshall Warren and Pixabay

The image on the left is an Eastern Mole. Moles are meat-eaters. They eat earthworms, grubs, and insects. As moles tunnel, they make visible raised tunnel ridges, volcano shaped mounds of soil, and have a closed tunnel system without an entrance hole. They have two different types of tunnels; active tunnels and foraging – feeding tunnels. The active tunnels are where you want to focus your control efforts. To determine which one is the active tunnel, you can use the broomstick test. The mole tends to keep their active tunnels closed and free of obstructions. If you poke a hole through the top of their tunnel and they repair the hole, then you have successfully found the active tunnel. Your control management should be in that tunnel.



Mole tunnels by Marshall Warren

The image on the right is a Pine Vole. Voles are vegetarians. They eat roots, bulbs, seeds, bark and foliage. Voles have open entrance holes, and their tunnels are not raised ridges. There are two different species of voles that damage landscape in North Carolina. There are the Pine Vole and the Meadow Voles. The Pine Vole damages seeds, bulbs, and plant roots below the ground. Meadow Voles usually forage above ground damaging the base of small trees and foliage of shrubs. To test for voles, you must first find the active entry hole. To do so, use the apple sign test. The apple sign test consists of you finding any entrance holes, and place an apple slice in 10’ to 15’ intervals. Be sure the cover them with plastic flower pots. If the apple is eaten or taken within 24 hours then you might have found an active hole.



Vole tunnels

Lethal and non lethal controls can be found for both of these pests. Search by pest name at <http://www.kellysolutions.com/nc/> and there should be a list of control methods with links. Source: <https://johnston.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Moles-and-Voles-article.pdf?pwd=no>

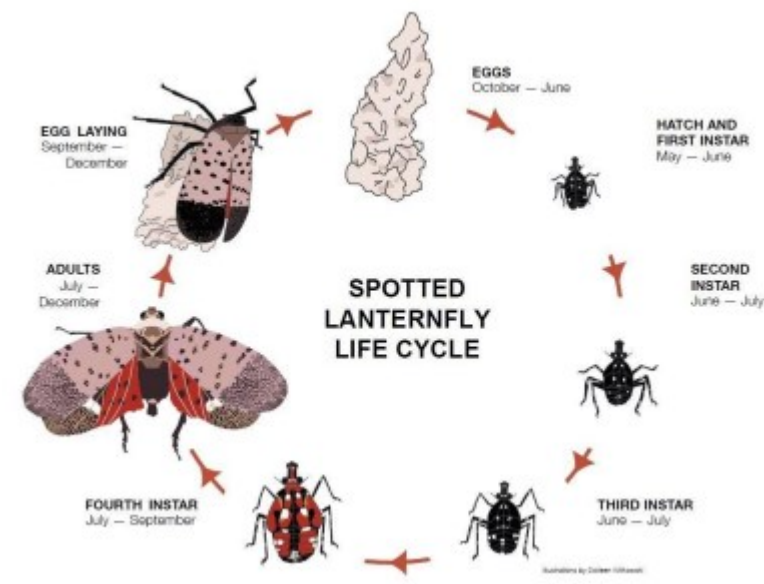
Warning From NCDA– Plant Industry Division

Memorandum from NCDA:

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Plant Industry Division would like to issue a warning to all North Carolina vineyards regarding the increased likelihood of transmission of the highly destructive Spotted Lanternfly from infested states to North Carolina.



This invasive insect threatens production of both Old World and New World grapes as well as tourism associated with your operation. Feeding can reduce sugar content in fruit and can kill vines by weakening their ability to survive freezing temperatures. In heavily infested areas, untreated vineyards can be completely destroyed in three years. Adult Spotted Lanternfly tend to swarm mid-September to mid-October, which can lead to restricted treatment options prior to harvest. Swarms of Spotted Lanternfly are also an incredible nuisance to guests and can reduce enjoyability of outdoor events (e.g. weddings) that your venue may host. Furthermore, Spotted Lanternfly can lay eggs on any flat surface, including the vehicles of visitors to your property. Since your vineyard is likely going to receive visitors from infested states, you should be extra diligent in inspecting all areas for Spotted Lanternfly.



The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has most recently detected an established population of Spotted Lanternfly in Carroll County, VA, bordering Surry County, NC. This is in addition to Prince William, Shenandoah, Page counties, the cities of Lynchburg and Winchester, and the quarantined Frederick, Clarke, and Warren counties. Additional states with established Spotted Lanternfly populations include: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. New infestations are being found regularly so adjacent states to those listed above could potentially carry Spotted Lanternfly as well.

It is imperative that we keep this pest out of North Carolina and early detection is critical. If you see Spotted Lanternfly or suspect that you see Spotted Lanternfly please take a picture and submit it in an email to badbug@ncagr.gov or you can call the North Carolina Department of Agriculture at 919-707-3730. We have also developed Preparedness Kits for grape growers and can be reached in the same manner if you would like to request these for yourself and other outreach materials for your staff and/ or guests.

Ornamental Mentions

Poinsettias:

- If you plan on purchasing poinsettias or have purchased poinsettias for the holidays, be sure to keep them away from any cold air or drafts.
- Aim for moderate moisture. Be sure to keep your roots from being constantly wet. A way to check is to feel the surface of the soil or see if the pot is heavy or light.
- Keep them in bright light to keep their color or else their leaves will begin to turn yellow.
- Fun fact: poinsettias are not toxic to pets. However, it can cause irritation.

Chrysanthemums:

- Most of the time mums are considered to be annuals and are kept in containers and thrown away at the end of the season. They can be considered perennials if properly taken care of.
- Early to mid-November is a perfect time to plant your mums in the ground before the first frost.
- Plant them in a well drained area where they receive an adequate amount of sunlight; water soluble fertilizer can be useful at a weekly rate.
- For full bloom in the fall, you can pinch off buds that form during the summer until the end of July without compromising the flower.

Pumpkins:

- When you are looking for a pumpkin to carve, you need to find a “jack-o-lantern.”
- Look for a “pie pumpkin” or “sweet pumpkin” if you would like to cook with them.
- When harvesting a pumpkin, be sure not to cut too close to the pumpkin or the pumpkin will rot and break down at a faster rate. A 3 to 4 inch stem is considered ideal.
- To see if the pumpkin is ripe you can thump it and it should sound hollow and feel hard. Or if you dig your fingernail into the skin, there should be good resistance. If not, then it’s not ripe.

Upcoming Events

- **Pesticide Collection Day:** November 10, 2021 at the Bladen County Extension Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The address is 450 Smith Circle Dr., Elizabethtown, NC 28337. Please bring all chemicals in a sealed container with a proper label for disposal. This is a great time to get rid of anything in your garage or barn that you haven't had a good opportunity to dispose of in the past.
- **2021 High Tunnel Winter Vegetable Field Day:** Specialists from Cooperative Extension at NC A&T are gearing up to share the latest research and tour multiple High Tunnel Designs. Information and skills learned here can help you put existing High Tunnels into their best use and make sound decisions on future High Tunnel plans. Register by Dec 7th and join us on Dec 9th at the University Farm from 2-5pm. Register: https://ncat.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zm30GFQOHewqI6
The address is 3020 McConnell Rd. Greensboro, NC 27405.