

Horticulture Hints



Surry County Center

October - December 2018

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Contact Us

Joanna E. Radford
Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
(Commercial & Consumer Horticulture)

North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Surry Center
P.O. Box 324
Dobson, NC 27017

Phone: (336) 401-8025
FAX: (336) 401-8048

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New Invasive Species on the Horizon

The spotted lanternfly is the new invasive pest that has the potential to be destructive to the grape, tree-fruit, hardwood and nursery industries. It originated in Asia and was discovered in the United States in eastern Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then, it has since migrated south and has been confirmed in areas as close Frederick County, Virginia.

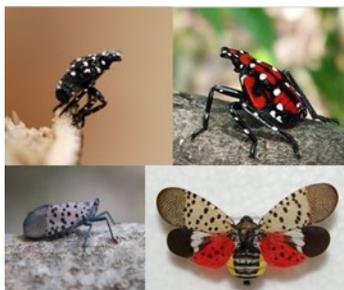


Photo Credit: L. Barringer, PA Dept. of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.

The insect has beautiful markings of tan, white and orange colors and dark brown to black polka dots. In the nymph stage it prefers to feed on a wide range of plant species such as willow,

poplar, maple, sycamore, plum, cherry and peach. Its adult stage prefers to feed and lay eggs on tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This tree is on the invasive species list and is common in our area. Often it is found crowding out our native species and damaging pavement and building foundations. Controlling the tree of heaven would help the spread of this spotted lanternfly. Young tree seedlings can dry conditions. Chemicals work well in late winter and early spring after the tree is cut.

There is only one generation of the spotted lanternfly per year. Adults lay eggs in the fall and they hatch in the spring. Once they hatch, they go through four nymph stages. They are hard to find. The first three nymph stages are black with white spots while the final nymph stage is red with white spots and black stripes. The adults emerge in July and are active until winter.

The spotted lanternfly causes harm to plants by using its piercing-sucking mouthparts to suck the sap right from the trunk, branches, twigs and leaves. This reduces photosynthesis and weakens the plant sometimes to the point of the plant's death. The oozing wounds may leave a greyish trail along the bark of the plant. The insect also secretes a substance known as honeydew. This honeydew is similar to what aphids secrete and is loved by many insects including bees. The buildup of honeydew on the plant or ground may encourage fungi such as sooty mold to develop. This can cover the leaf surface and possibly stunt growth.

Any sightings of the spotted lanternfly should be reported to your local plant specialist, Ginger Hemmings, (336.314.9934) with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Photos can be submitted to newpest@ncagr.gov with the subject "Suspected Spotted Lanternfly".

Vinedresser Meeting Scheduled

The final 2018 Vinedresser program will go out with a bang for the year on October 18 from 9:00 am-12:00 Noon at the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center in Dobson. There are three fantastic speakers slated to speak: Sarah Bowman, Surry Community College Viticulture Professor, speaking on "Comparing Canopy Management Costs and Marketable Yield Between Wine Grape Varieties and Training Systems", Renee Cowick, North Carolina ABC Commission with "Legalities in the Wine Industry" and Dr. Gill Giese, Extension Viticulture Specialist with New Mexico State University speaking on "Grape Myth, Mystery and Terroir". Anyone who is a vineyard owner, operator, wine maker, or wine connoisseur is welcome to attend.

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Adapted from Leslie Peck, Extension Agent, Agriculture - Horticulture

With so many plants in our landscape, it can become confusing when a plant should be pruned. Winter is usually a good time for pruning many, but not all, plants in your landscape. In the winter, plants are dormant which means they are not actively growing. Pruning plants at this time can reduce stress to that plant. For deciduous trees, pruning them while they are leafless (wintertime) can make it easier to see the branch structure. Before you prune, be sure you know what you are pruning. Plants that flower early in the spring, such as dogwood and cherry trees, have already formed buds in the fall. If you prune them during the winter, you will cut off flower buds and lose those spring flowers. On the other hand, plants that bloom later in the season, such as crape myrtles, typically form flower buds on new growth in the spring. Winter is an ideal time to prune these plants.

Any time you are pruning, do not remove more than 1/3 (one-third) of the existing plant material. If you remove too much of the plant and foliage, the plant will have a difficult time recovering. When you are pruning, start by removing any branches that fall into the three D's: dead, diseased, or damaged. Dead wood will be dry and dark in color on the inside when you cut it, whereas living plant tissue is lighter in color on the interior. When pruning any diseased plant, be sure to clean your tools before you continue to prune other plants. Clean the blades of your pruners with a 9:1 solution of water:bleach. Be sure the blades are dry before storing your tools to avoid rusting. When pruning, cut the branch back to the trunk, do not cut flush with the trunk. Instead, remove the branch just outside the swollen area where it emerges from the trunk. This is called the branch collar. Branches pruned to just above the branch collar will heal naturally. Larger branches should be removed using multiple cuts, to avoid stripping the bark from the tree

trunk. With very large branches, it is advisable to call a professional for assistance.

There are a few different types of pruning cuts. Heading cuts can be used to decrease plant size. This removes actively growing shoots and can stimulate growth at the remaining nodes on the plant. Thinning cuts are used to control the shape of the plant. Thinning cuts are important for removing branches that may be growing in undesirable directions. Thinning the canopy of trees and shrubs allows light and air to enter and can improve growth and reduce pest pressure.

Call our office to receive publications of various pruning calendars:

- "How to Prune Specific Plants"
- "Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar"
- "Shrub Pruning Calendar"
- "Evergreen Tree Pruning Calendar"

Be Prepared: NC Disaster Information Center

With the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Florence, you may be thinking about how you can prepare and protect your family during future natural disasters. The NC Disaster Information Center is a great resource from NC State Extension. This site provides information on food safety during a power outage, home restoration after a disaster, tips for animal owners, farm emergency plans, and more!

Visit ncdisaster.ces.ncsu.edu to access all of the great information that this site has to offer!

Disclaimer:

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety rule is now final. The rule establishes science based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption.

If a fruit and/or vegetable grower grows more than \$25,000 annually (including all sales from farm food and feed commodities), he or she will need to attend one compliance training and will be required to keep specific records for their farming operation. There will be training offered on Friday, October 19 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Surry Community College Pilot Center in Pilot Mountain. There is a \$50 fee. Pre-registration is required through <https://ncfreshproducesafety.ces.ncsu.edu/2017/02/fsma-produce-safety-rule-growers-training/>.

Produce Safety
ALLIANCE

Soil Samples



Standard Soil Test for NC residents only.

Soil sample boxes and forms may be obtained by stopping by the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center. There is no fee (other than postage) if you send the sample from April 2 through November 30. There is a \$4 fee per sample (plus postage) from December 1 through April 1.

Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection Day



October 27, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Park

Bring:

- Paints
- Paint Stripper
- Pesticides
- Weed Killers
- Drain Solvents
- Gasoline
- Dry Cell Batteries
- Oil
- Acids
- Thinners
- Solvents
- Antifreeze
- Pool Chemicals

Don't Bring:

- Ammunitions
- Radioactive Materials
- Unidentified Materials
- Explosives
- Medicine & Syringes
- LP & Propane Gas Cylinders
- Infectious Waste
- Automotive Type Batteries

Label all containers, close all lids tightly, cushion glass bottles.

This disposal day is for household products only. The only exception is pesticides. Commercial and household pesticides will be accepted.

This program was made possible by Surry County Public Works, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Science, and N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center.

**For more information contact:
 Surry County Public Works
 (336) 401-8376**

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

There is a program in North Carolina - as well as the other 49 states - that will teach you gardening skills and allow you to share your newly acquired gardening knowledge. The Extension Master GardenerSM program teaches an extensive gardening course, covering topics such as botany, lawns, soils, insects, diseases, ornamentals, small fruits, weed identifications and management, organic culture, composting, wildlife, propagation, pesticides, and landscape design. Program attendees have often said that the training is equivalent to a college course in horticulture. We have an award-winning manual to accompany this training; it can be purchased as a hard copy or an electronic pdf. The training cost is dependent on your manual choice, ranging from \$80 to \$125. If you would like to preview everything the class will cover, you can preview the manual (<https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/>). The hard copy book is offered at a significant discount to all class participants.

Once the training is completed, you are encouraged to stay with the program and offer volunteer hours to our community and local residents of the great Surry County. The program is designed to teach you, and then you compliment the Extension horticulture office by sharing your newly acquired knowledge at community events, field days, and/or educational exhibits; teaching or demonstrating gardening to senior citizens, youth, or special needs groups. Gardening is a very practical, therapeutic, and relaxing activity that can benefit everyone. If you have an interest or passion for gardening and a desire to help your fellow neighbor, then this may be the program of you.

We are offering the training in the upcoming year beginning February 5 and ending April 30. The training will be held weekly on Tuesday afternoons,

from 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm, at N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers, each excelling in the topic they will be presenting. An orientation meeting has been scheduled for January 22 for those interested. It will also be a time to meet with our current NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and NC State Extension Master GardenerSM program coordinator, Ms. Charlotte Glen. Program applications can be completed and submitted at this time as well.

Pre-registration for the orientation is required by January 18. If you are interested in this program or training, please contact Joanna Radford, Extension Horticultural Agent, at 336-401-8025 or by email at joanna_radford@ncsu.edu.

Food Safety on the Farm: GAP Training

Surry Community College and N.C. Cooperative Extension offers many agricultural courses and workshops throughout the year. This time these two have teamed up to present a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training. This training will be offered November 20 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Surry Community College Elkin Center in Elkin.

GAP Certification is driven by produce buyers and training is recommended, in some cases required, by buyers. Workshop participants will receive information and tools needed to create a plan of action and food safety manual for their farming operation. Those in attendance will leave with a flash drive with plan templates and required posters to help meet GAP certification requirements. The class will be taught by Extension agents with N.C. Cooperative Extension. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$75 are required. Seating is limited; early registration is encouraged. For questions and registration, call 336-386-3618.



Surry County Center
 210 N. Main St.
 Post Office Box 324
 Dobson, NC 27017-0324

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Surry County Beekeepers Meeting

October 8, 2018 / 7:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Extension Master Gardener Meeting

October 10, 2018 / 12:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Vinedresser Meeting

October 18, 2018 / 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

FSMA Training

October 19, 2018 / 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
**Surry Community College Pilot Center,
 Pilot Mountain**

Plants and Pests Webinar

October 23, 2018 / 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection Day

October 27, 2018 / 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Veteran's Memorial Park, Mt. Airy

Extension Advisory Council Meeting

October 30, 2018 / 6:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Extension Master Gardener Meeting

November 7, 2018 / 12:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Surry County Beekeepers Meeting

November 12, 2018 / 7:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training

November 20, 2018 / 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
**Surry Community College Elkin Center,
 Elkin**

Farm City

November 28, 2018 / 8:00 am
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

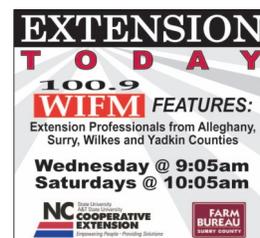
Surry County Beekeepers Association Holiday Celebration

December 8, 2018
TBA

Extension Master Gardener Appreciation Day

December 12, 2018 / 12:00 Noon
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

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Accommodation Statement: *If you are a person with a disability or desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Extension office during business hours of 8:15 AM—5:00 PM at least two weeks before the event to request accommodations.*

Special Note: Registration for events listed in this calendar are required unless otherwise noted. Register by calling (336) 401-8025.