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College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

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Fayette County Extension **August, 2016**

By The Yard

HORTICULTURE

Inside this issue:

TIME TO SEED LAWN

Mid-August through mid-September is the optimum time to seed lawns. Turf type tall fescues are generally the best type of grass for central Kentucky. To insure success, make sure seed is covered with soil and water daily until seed germinates. Do not let newly seeded areas become overly dry. Begin mowing when new grass is 3-4 inches tall.

Planning for Fall Vegetables in the Garden

It's time to start planning how you can continue to enjoy your garden and even add new plantings. You can plant a variety of produce in Kentucky gardens in the coming weeks allowing fresh items to be available well into the fall.

The cooler nights experienced later in the year as these vegetables mature may increase the sugar content of many crops and thus increase their quality. Cooler nights also slow growth, so crops can take longer to mature than in the summer. Keep this slower pace in mind when you check seeds for days to maturity.

Late July or early August would be the time to make a last planting of bush beans, carrots, sweet corn, kale, collards, Bibb lettuce, turnips and cole crops such as kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. For late August and into September try planting mustard greens, spinach greens, radishes, turnip greens and leaf lettuce.

Before planting, remove any existing debris including crops and weeds to the compost bin and cultivate the soil.

If the previous crop was well fertilized and grew vigorously you may need to add little if any additional fertilizer, otherwise apply about 2 to 3 pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 per 100 square feet of planting area.

Remember to keep fall gardens well watered as this tends to be a fairly dry time in Kentucky. A weekly irrigation sufficient to wet the soil to 6 or 8 inches should be adequate. This is more or less equivalent to a weekly one-inch rain.

To learn more about fall gardening options, contact the Fayette Cooperative Extension Service.

By: Rick Durham, UK Extension Horticulture Professor

Photo: Texas A&M University, Texas Cooperative Extension,

Spider Mite Problems

Figure 1. Two-spotted spider mites and eggs (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK, Entomology)

The two-spotted spider mite is the most common and destructive mite on deciduous ornamentals. It feeds on many varieties of trees, shrubs, flowers, weeds, fruits, and garden crops. Immature stages and adults are yellow to green with two dark spots on either side of the body. The spherical eggs are translucent. Strands of webbing spun by the mites can cover infested leaves and stems.

Two-spotted spider mites overwinter as adult females in the soil or under the bark of host plants. They become active during the spring and may feed and reproduce throughout the summer and into fall provided conditions remain favorable for plant growth. It is considered a warm season mite that thrives under hot, dry summer conditions. Damaging populations seldom develop during wet, cool weather.

Scouting for Spider Mites

Timely inspection of susceptible landscape plants, especially during periods favoring mite outbreaks is key to preventing serious damage. Pay particular attention to plants having a history of mite problems. Spider mites often re-infest plants year after year.

Inspect stippled and distorted leaves to determine if mites are present. Thrips, leafhoppers, and lace bugs can cause similar symptoms. Spider mites prefer to feed on the lower leaf surface, so examine there first. A 10X to 20X hand lens is essential for clearly seeing the mites. Also visible on the leaf surface may be pale-colored cast "skins" shed by developing mites, as well as the eggs.

An efficient way to sample vegetation for mites is to hold a sheet of white paper or foam board under a branch and tap or shake the foliage sharply. If mites are present, some will be dislodged and appear as slow-moving, dark specks on the paper.

Management

Spider mite infestations are easiest to control when detected early, before the mite populations have reached very high levels.

•Spraying plants with a strong stream of water from a garden hose can dislodge many. The approach is generally more effective on smaller plants with open foliage and low mite populations. Water sprays should be directed upward against the lower leaf surface. Repeat as needed.

•Low populations of spider mites may be held in check by naturally occurring predatory mites that feed on both eggs and active stages.

•Homeowner options include horticultural oils, and insecticidal/miticidal soaps. Products such as Bon-Neem Insecticidal Soap, Green Light OMRI Listed Insect/Disease Control, Bayer Natria Insect, Disease, and Mite Control (with sulfur) and Ortho Elementals Garden Insect Killer with pyrethrins and canola oil can be used for mite control on ornamentals and vegetables. Bayer 3-in-1 Insect, Disease, and Mite Control is an option for trees, shrubs, and flowers. Spectracide Triazicide Insect Killer Once & Done is labeled for spider mite control on a range of ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers.

•Good spray coverage is essential when treating for mites. Thoroughly wet the foliage and try to contact as many mites as possible. Pay particular attention to leaf undersides where most mites are living. In most cases, two or more applications at 5 to10 day intervals will be needed for satisfactory control.

•Multiple applications of carbaryl or many of the pyrethroid insecticides can trigger mite outbreaks, as can systemic use of imidacloprid drenches.

By: Lee Townsend, U.K. Extension Entomologist

REGISTER TODAY! Gardener's Toolbox Class on Tuesday, August 2nd, 6:30 p.m., *Attracting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects*
(additional spots recently became available regarding this very popular topic):

As our precious honeybees have struggled we have all become more aware of the importance of pollinators and beneficial insects in our home gardens. This class will discuss some of the best plants to attract and feed these welcome visitors. There are some common management practices you may want to avoid to favor these types of insects. You will take home several small transplants to make your garden more inviting. **Cost: $15.00.**

Save a spot by calling (859) 257-5582. You can pay at the door when you sign in on the night of the class.

Fall Webworm – Generation II

The second generation of fall webworm is underway and their distinctive silk nests should be abundant in many areas through August. These fuzzy caterpillars have pale green or yellow hairs over their bodies with rows of black spots along their backs. They cooperatively build light gray tents (Figure 1) that enclose the ends of branches of over 100 species of forest trees. shade trees, and shrubs. Sourwood, pecan, and persimmon are favorite hosts. Fall webworms feed on leaves inside the webbing and expand the "tent" as they require more food during their 4 to 5 week developmental period.

Management

The presence of fall webworms is primarily an aesthetic issue on a healthy, established landscape tree. However, significant infestations on stressed or new transplants can be serious.

- When practical, remove and destroy unsightly webs and the resident caterpillars.
- A Bt-spray can be effective against small caterpillars (1/2-inch long or less). This insecticide is a stomach poison webworms, so it must be applied to foliage on which they are feeding. Products containing spinosad or pyrethroids can work as contact or stomach poisons. Treatments can be focused on the foliage in and around the tent. Usually, there is no need to spray entire trees.

Fall webworm has significant natural enemies. Several spider species feed on the caterpillars and some beneficial wasps use them as hosts.

By Lee Townsend, U.K. Extension Entomologist

Figure 1. Fall webworm tents were particularly abundant on sourwood trees in Powell County on July 16 this year. Leaves can appear "scorched" from surface feeding of small caterpillars (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Figure 2. Larger fall webworm caterpillars cause more extensive defoliation (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Quick Tips for August

- Many short season vegetables can be planted now for a fall crop. Look at beans, cucumbers, squash, radishes, lettuce etc. Keep in mind the shortening days will cause plants to mature more slowly. Allow at least two weeks longer than the predicted days to harvest.
- Plant cool season crops like broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts and cauliflower now for best results. These crops perform better for us in fall than spring.
- Finish trimming shrubs and hedges this month to allow time for re-growth to mature before winter.
- Do not spray pesticides in the heat. Wait until late evening or early morning when temperatures are cooler. Always read labels thoroughly for additional precautions.
- Divide crowded perennials now through mid September.
- Harvest vegetables as they mature. Allowing fruits and vegetables to ripen seed on the plant will reduce further yields.
- Monitor plants in the squash and pumpkin family for squash bug and squash vine borer. Treat as necessary before a significant problem develops.
- Bagworms are still a problem on evergreens. Monitor plants closely as small bagworms are much easier to control than the more mature larvae.
- Late summer brings the common tomato blights to forefront. Inspect plants regularly and remove any infected leaves as they appear. This will help control the spread of the disease. Also be careful not to wet foliage when watering as splashing water often spreads disease organisms.

Don't forget to register for ***"Gardener's Toolbox Classes, 2016".*** For a complete class descriptions and registrations information visit our website at: http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/files/gardeners_toolbox_2016.pdf or call 859 257-5582 to have a copy mailed to you.

We still have openings for ***August 11th class, Ornamental Grasses. Cost is $20.00.***

Dealing with Fleas

Figure 1. Cat flea: the most common external parasite on cats and dogs (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Many perennials and biennials can be started from seed now for bloom next year. You can seed directly in the garden or start in pots for transplanting.

The cat flea (Figure 1) is the most common external parasite of dogs and cats. These small, hopping insects also bite humans. In addition to the discomfort of bites and the chance of secondary infection by contamination of bite sites, the cat flea is an intermediate host of the dog tapeworm, the most common intestinal flatworm parasite of dogs and cats.

Managing flea infestations and dealing with apparent "control failures" can be frustrating. It often results in a request for a recommendation for "something else to spray" because the product being used is not working. Dr. Michael Dryden (Kansas State University) has worked extensively with flea management. He defines a true control failure "as the persistence of an infestation (house or pet) for more than 60 to 90 days despite the timely application of a flea product on the pet (i.e., every 30 days for a monthly product)."

Are expectations too high?

"*I have treated but still find fleas on my pet.*" Some topically applied products do not kill fleas immediately, but the insects usually die within 24-hours. Finding small numbers of fleas on pets that are on a treatment program often means that fleas are continuing to emerge from breeding sites. This is normal. Focus on identifying and cleaning/treating these areas. Fleas also can be picked up from other sources, but more often than not, the source is at home or very close to it.

Are product recommendations being followed?

Apply preventive flea control products at the interval specified on the label. Skipping a treatment or being just a few days late can make a big difference. A female flea begins to lay eggs within 1 to 2 days of getting on a host and soon may lay up to 40 eggs per day. These eggs fall off the host and into the bedding or where pets rest. This keeps chronic infestations going.

Is the product being applied correctly and at the proper dose?

Spot-on products often need to be applied **directly to the skin**. That means parting the hair so the applicator tip contacts the skin. Do not apply the insecticide to just the hair.

Use an accurate weight for the pet. Ready-to-use doses usually are packaged for different weight ranges. Volumes or individual doses are small, so be sure to dispense all of it onto the pet. Failure to use all of the material may make a big difference in control. Be thorough; treat all pets, even if they don't seem to have fleas.

Check the label for restrictions on age of pet or species. Some insecticides are labeled for use only on dogs or cats while others may be used on both.

Cats must not be treated with products containing permethrin. Also, cats must not be subjected to secondary permethrin exposure by treated dogs in the household. Mutual grooming or sharing sleeping areas can result in poisoning. Among the symptoms expressed by cats exposed to permethrin: muscle tremors, twitching, and salivation. Take the cat to your veterinarian immediately.

Have *off-pet* sources been identified and treated?

Adult fleas are the noticeable part of an infestation but represent only a small proportion of the total flea population in an infestation. About 95% of the total flea load is off the pet. Most life stages, such as larvae (Figure 2), are off the pet in bedding

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Dealing with Fleas *(continued)*

Figure 2. Flea larva: a white legless worm that usually lives in pet bedding or carpeting in home infestations; they feed on dried blood and debris (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK).

Figure 3. Tapeworm segments (prolottids) can be found where pets sleep. The tapeworm eggs in the segments can be ingested by developing flea larvae (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Divide bearded iris now. The rhizomes should be separated into individual pieces with at least one fan of leaves attached. Plant so that the top of the fat rhizome is slightly exposed. Cut the remaining leave to 6" in height.

or regular sleeping areas. Until this is addressed, flea problems will continue to be chronic and changing products targeted at killing the adults will not give satisfactory results.

If adult flea control efforts on the pets have been "by-the-book," then make sure to take adequate steps to address breeding sites. Washing bedding in hot soapy water and vacuuming carpets and upholstered furniture where pets lay are important steps in a total flea control program.

Fleas & the Dog Tapeworm

The dog tapeworm is an intestinal flatworm parasite made up of a chain of segments. Mature segments (proglottids), which contain tapeworm eggs, break off and pass out in the feces or crawl out through the anus while infested animal sleeps. Eliminated segments soon dry and break open to release tapeworm eggs. Released eggs must be eaten by flea larvae in order to continue their development. The resulting infected adult flea must be ingested by a dog or cat as it nibbles to relieve the itching from the flea bite.

Products for Flea Treatment

In-home treatments

Many different products are available for home treatment. The most effective formulations contain both an adulticide (e.g., permethrin) effective against the biting adult stage, and an insect growth regulator (IGR) necessary to provide long-term suppression of the eggs, larvae, and pupae. Often these products can be identified by the word *Plus* in the brand name.

Aerosol formulations are easier to apply than liquids. Moreover, aerosol products can be directed under and behind beds, furniture, etc. Be thorough and include all likely areas of flea development. Treat carpets, throw rugs, under and behind beds and furniture, and beneath cushions on which pets sleep, if allowed by the label. Pay particular attention to areas where pets spend time or sleep; this is where most flea eggs, larvae, and pupae will be concentrated. For example, if the family cat sleeps within a closet or hides under the bed, these areas must be treated or the problem will continue. Hardwood and tile floors generally do not require treatment but should be thoroughly vacuumed.

Expect to see some fleas for 2 weeks or longer following treatment. Provided all infested areas were treated initially, these "survivors" are probably newly emerged adults which have not yet contacted the insecticide. Instead of re-treating the premises immediately, continue to vacuum. Vacuuming stimulates pupae to hatch, bringing the newly emerged adults into contact with the insecticide sooner.

Outdoor treatments

Outdoor flea treatment may be needed in some cases. Focus on areas where pets rest, sleep, and run (such as doghouse and kennel areas), under decks, along fences, and next to foundations. It is seldom necessary to treat the entire yard or open areas exposed to full sun.

Flea traps

Flea traps, such as those utilizing a light and glue board to attract and capture adult fleas, can be helpful but will not eliminate a flea infestation unless used in combination with other methods. If adult fleas continue to be seen beyond 2 to 4 weeks, retreatment of the premises (and pet) may be necessary.

By Lee Townsend, UK Extension Entomologist

Lone Star Seed Ticks Can Cause Some Miserable Days

Tiny lone star tick larvae (also called seed ticks and turkey mites) will be active over the next few weeks (Figure 1). Reaction to their bites cause painful itching that can last for 7 to 20 days. Dressing appropriately, using repellents, and checking regularly for ticks are important actions to take to reduce the chances for ticks attaching and feeding on you during the remainder of the tick season.

Ticks seeking blood meals work from the ground up. They will climb on vegetation and wait for a passing host, so most are picked up on the lower legs. Anyone unfortunate enough to walk through or stand in an area where a mass of lone star tick eggs has hatched may find themselves covered with hundreds of the tiny parasites.

Protecting Yourself from Ticks

•Have a clothing barrier: wear long pants and tuck the bottoms into socks. This helps to keep ticks on the outer surface of your clothing and off of your skin. Wear light colors to make them more visible.

•Clothing sprays (Figure 3)containing permethrin (for example Sawyer Premium Insect Repellent for Clothing & Gear and Permanone) can be used when in areas where ticks are known to be abundant or if the risk is unknown. These products are not for application to skin.

•Deet-based repellents with a concentration of at least 20% can provide good protection.

•Picaridin and botanical or herbal repellents are unlikely to provide much protection against ticks.

Check yourself thoroughly for ticks and carefully remove them (Figure 4). This is difficult to do with the small "seed ticks." which also are called turkey mites.

By Lee Townsend, UK Extension Entomologist

Figure 4. A "handful of trouble." Some duct tape is a quick way to blot up "seed ticks" before they reach less visible destinations. (Photo: L. Minter)

Figure 1. Six-legged lone star tick larvae are less than 1/20 inch long (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK).

Figure 2. Socks held lone star tick larvae against the wearer's skin, helping the ticks to attach (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK).

Figure 3. Applying permethrin repellent (Photo: http://www.tickencounter.com)

Green June Beetles and Japanese Beetles

Figure 1. Green June beetle. (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

Japanese Beetle (Source: University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension)

Figure 2. The blue-winged wasp is a natural enemy of the green June beetle. (Photo: Lee Townsend,

The Green June beetle (Figure 1) flight has begun across Kentucky. They are similar to, and at the same time different from, Japanese beetles.

What They Have In Common

Both species are good fliers and congregate in large numbers when feeding. Also, each has one generation each year and their larval stages are white grubs that develop in soil.

Females of both species fly low over the turf during July and August as they look for suitable areas to lay eggs. These beetles will land and enter the soil to lay eggs where conditions are right for them. Adequate soil moisture is vital because eggs of both must absorb a significant amount of water in order to hatch. That should be relatively easy this summer because of the amount of rainfall that has fallen.

Different Feeding Habits

Green June beetle grubs feed on organic matter, while Japanese beetle grubs feed on grass roots. Feeding by Japanese beetle grubs can result in dead patches in turfgrass; green June beetle grubs will not do this.

While Japanese beetles feed extensively on leaf tissue, green June beetles eat soft sugary foods: ripe and over-ripened fruits, corn tassels and silks, tree sap, and honeydew. Feeding causes fermentation and production of volatile organic compounds that attract other individuals. Information on green June beetle management on grapes is available in the publication, *Green June Beetles on Grapes* (ENTFACT-227).

Green June Bug Grubs Have a Natural Enemy

When green June beetles show up, the blue winged wasp is not far behind. This distinctive 1/2-inch long wasp with blue-black wings has a reddish tail and two yellow bars near the end of its abdomen (Figure 2). It is a natural enemy of green June beetle grubs.

These wasps cruise over grassy areas in search of grubs. They will enter the soil and burrow to find the beetle larva, sting it, and then lay an egg. The wasp larva uses the grub for food and spends the winter in a cocoon within the host, emerging the following year. The wasps are not aggressive and do not pose a threat. Nectar provides them with an energy source that allows them to search for prey so they are commonly seen on flowers.

Source: Lee Townsend, UK Extension Entomologist

DON'T FORGET! FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
Fayette County Public Schools will start Wednesday, August 10th.
Please drive carefully!

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