BUCKEYE YARD AND GARDEN LINE 2012-10
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This is the 10th 2012 edition of the Buckeye Yard and Garden Line (BYGL). BYGL is developed from a Tuesday morning conference call of Extension Educators, Specialists, and other contributors in Ohio.

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1. PLANTS OF THE WEEK.

*ANNUAL - LARKSPUR (Delphinium exaltatum). This native Ohio plant is quite easy to grow and spreads prolifically by seed if left unchecked. However, the bright purplish blue color (some resources describe the flowers as a "gentian blue" color) makes a great addition to a cottage garden or naturalized area. They also make great cut flowers for arrangements. The flowers are racemes with spikes growing as tall as 4 - 6', depending upon the location. Spent flowers can be removed to encourage a later bloom; but keep some of the seed heads in order to encourage reseeding. Larkspur won't thrive in hot humid situations and may die back somewhat in the heat of summer. However, new seedlings emerge and provide additional bloom.

Larkspur reseeds regularly and comes back year after year. If they get out of control, simply rogue out any seedlings that aren't needed. These plants tend to be deer resistant. Since they are members of the buttercup family, all parts of the larkspur plant are poisonous.

*PERENNIAL - RED HOT POKER (Kniphofia uvaria). The unique blooms of this plant tend to catch one's eye when scanning the perennial border in June and July. The showy flowers rise above the foliage on 2 - 4' flower stalks. The 8 - 10" long, spike-like flowers begin to bloom at the base of the spike (lower flowers) and then move to the top; they fade as they develop, giving the appearance of a two-toned flower. Bees and hummingbirds are
attracted to the flowers. Numerous cultivars have been developed, providing a variety of flower colors in the red, yellow, orange, and cream range. Once the flowers die, remove the stalk down to the base of the plant.

The foliage is gray-green and narrow, sword-like, and about 18 - 36" long. It can be somewhat evergreen and is fairly unattractive as the flowers fade. Cut it back about half-way to rejuvenate when it starts to look ragged. This keeps the garden looking nice.

These plants do quite well in average well-drained soils, but thrive in moderately rich, humus rich soils in full sun. They are, however, intolerant of wet, heavy soils, and won't make it through winter in this type of environment. Some gardeners find that mulching extends the longevity of these plants.

*WOODY - BALDCYPRESS (Taxodium distichum). Baldcypress can be seen flowering throughout Ohio. Baldcypress is a deciduous conifer tree that can reach 100' in height. Baldcypress prefers wet areas but can adapt to drier sites. When growing in water this tree develops "cypress knees" which are short, tapering trunks developed from the roots. Baldcypress has light-brown, furrowed, scaly bark. The feather-like foliage is light-green in the summer turning to a rich bronze-red color in the fall. The tree drops its foliage by early winter. Due to this fact, this tree is often mistaken for a dead coniferous tree and many have been cut down. This is a great tree for use as a specimen and can be really interesting in small or large areas in the landscape.

*VEGETABLE - SWISS CHARD (Beta vulgaris subsp. cicla). Swiss chard is a great plant to grow if you and/or your family members enjoy spinach. With leaves able to be harvested as early as 4 weeks, chard is a quick producing and nutritious plant. Chard, a close relative of the beet, is grown for its vitamin-rich greens, rather than its root.

Chard should be planted in rows 18 - 24" apart. Thin chard seedlings to about 12" apart to allow plants to grow to their mature size, which is about 2 - 3' tall. Plants removed at thinning time can be used as salad greens.

Chard can be harvested throughout an entire growing season, beginning when the leaves are 7 - 10" tall. Cut outer leaves first, about an 1" from the soil surface with a sharp knife. Be careful not to damage the new inner stems and growing points. Harvested chard can be stored unwashed in the refrigerator for a few days. It can be cooked, prepared, or utilized just like spinach, and the leaf petioles are delicious too. There are many cultivars to choose from like those with red petioles ('Burgundy', 'Rhubarb', 'Ruby Red'), white petioles ('Fordhook Giant', 'Geneva', 'Large White Ribbed', 'Lucullus', 'Perpetual', 'Winter King', 'Virgo', 'Bionda di Lyon'), yellow petioles ('Bright Yellow', 'Gold Stem', 'Pot of Gold'), magenta petioles ('Magenta Sunset'), and a mixture of red, pink, orange, purple, white, and yellow petioles ('Five Color Silverbeet', 'Rainbow', 'Bright Lights', 'Neon Lights', 'Northern Lights').

*WEED - WILD GRAPE VINE (Vitis spp.). There are 50 - 60 species of wild grape that grow in the central or mid-western US. Several of those grow in Ohio. These include: riverbank (Vitis riparia) and frost grapes (Vitis vulpina), which grow throughout the state; fox grape (Vitis labrusca), which inhabits areas along Lake Erie and in a few southern counties; summer grape (Vitis aestivalis), which can be found in the eastern part of Ohio; and pigeon (Vitis cinerea) and possum grapes (Vitis baileyana), which occur in southern Ohio.

These grapes, sometimes aptly referred to as a climbing shrub, thrive in woods, on riverbanks, along fencerows, and in managed areas such as orchards, vineyards, tree plantations, and landscapes. The many species of this plant have numerous differences in appearance, habitat, and preferred soil types, which range from moist and rich to sandy and dry. However, one thing they have in common is the capability of climbing over trees and shrubs in sufficient mass to block enough of the light to harm or even kill them. For more information on this plant please see "Wild Grapes" in the Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide, OARDC and Ohio State University Extension [http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/singlerecord.asp?id=450].

2. HORT SHORTS.
A. GROWING DEGREE DAYS (GDD). GDD is a measure of the daily maximum and minimum temperature and directly relates to growth and development of plants and insects. The GDD of any zip code location in Ohio is estimated using the GDD of ten OARDC weather stations and available on the web at: [http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/].

The range of GDD accumulations in Ohio from north to south is 759 to 1,151. Following is a report of GDD for several locations around Ohio as of June 6, 2012: Painesville, 759; Cleveland, 817; Toledo, 934; Canfield, 841; Findlay, 957; Van Wert, 972; Wooster, 889; Coshocton, 1,006; Columbus, 1,148; Springfield, 1,090; Dayton, 1,092; Cincinnati, 1,129; Ironton, 1,150; Portsmouth, 1,151; and Piketon, 1,120.

To put these GDD accumulations into perspective, the following is an abbreviated listing of plant and insect species with their respective phenological event and average GDD accumulations at which these events occur. Due to variations in weather, temperature, humidity, etc., these events may occur a few days earlier or later than predicted by the average GDD. By looking at a city, town, or village nearby on the above list, or visiting the above website, one can see what is taking place in the landscape.

Calico scale, egg hatch, 748; greater peach tree borer, adult emergence, 775; rhododendron borer, adult emergence, 815; northern catalpa, full bloom, 816; mountain laurel, full bloom, 822; dogwood borer, adult emergence, 830; oakleaf hydrangea, first bloom, 835; cottony maple scale, egg hatch, 851; panicle hydrangea, first bloom, 856; fall webworm, egg hatch (first generation), 867; mimosa webworm, egg hatch (first generation), 874; fuzzy deutzia, full bloom, 884; winged euonymus scale, egg hatch, 892; spruce budscale, egg hatch, 894; winterberry holly, full bloom, 897; panicled goldenraintree, first bloom, 924; June bride littleleaf linden, first bloom, 953; azalea bark scale, egg hatch, 957; Japanese beetle, adult emergence, 970; rosebay rhododendron, first bloom, 1,010; June bride littleleaf linden, full bloom, 1,115; bottlebrush buckeye, first bloom, 1,158; Ural falsespirea, first bloom, 1,170; panicled goldenraintree, full bloom, 1,251; rose-of-Sharon, first bloom, 1,347; pine needle scale, egg hatch - 2nd generation, 1,349; and mimosa webworm, egg hatch - 2nd generation, 1,920.

B. GARDENING FOR BIRDS: ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH FEEDERS. One of the easiest ways to attract songbirds to a garden or backyard is by putting up a bird feeder. Birds lead highly energetic lives and require large amounts of food to maintain their daily activities. At this time of year, birds are raising young and are in need of energy-rich, nutritious foods. During the winter, the need for food becomes even more important. The chickadee, for example, must forage for food from dawn to dusk in order to have enough energy to survive the cold night. Many of the feeders, seed selection, and feeder placement tips that follow can be utilized during the cold winter months as well.

First off, it's important to realize that different birds prefer different types of food and also forage for said food differently. Therefore, to obtain a variety of birds at feeders, aim for diversity of feeders and the types of food within them. This is not hard to do as there are many different types of feeders available on the market. This article will discuss feeders generally as hanging feeders, ground feeders, and bird tables.

Hanging feeders will attract species that forage for food in trees and shrubs, where they are accustomed to clinging to swaying branches or hanging upside down to reach food. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, finches, jays, and goldfinches commonly visit such feeders. Fill these feeders with sunflower seeds (hulled seeds for less mess, black sunflower seeds preferred) or the tiny, black thistle seeds (also called nyjer seeds). If choosing a mix of seeds, the most popular among birds contains white millet, cracked corn, and sunflower seeds. For additional diversity, consider hanging a mesh bag of a nut mixture to attract jays and woodpeckers. During the winter, suet in hanging metal cages is a favorite of woodpeckers, titmice, and nuthatches.

Bird tables are a must in a backyard - they attract species accustomed to feeding on the ground and in the trees. Common visitors to a bird table will be finches, cardinals, jays, nuthatches, blackbirds, orioles, titmice, and if you are lucky, tanagers, grosbeaks, and buntings. A good bird table should have raised edges, good drainage, and a roof to protect the food from inclement weather. Many different types of food can be placed on a bird table to attract a diversity of species. Consider adding a mixture of raisins and currants to appeal to bluebirds and mockingbirds.
Half of an orange secured to a nail or spike is especially attractive to orioles and tanagers. A multi-tiered bird table will allow even more space for different types of food.

Last but not least are ground feeders. Certain species of birds are happier feeding at ground level, such as the cardinals, doves, buntings, juncos, towhees, and sparrows. Place a hopper feeder (looks similar to a hanging feeder, but sits on the ground) in an open area to attract juncos and sparrows. Use caged hoppers to prevent unwanted visitors such as squirrels and raccoons from getting into the hopper. A ground feeder could also be a lower placed bird table. When a ground feeder is placed near shrubs and bushes, towhees and catbirds are more comfortable popping out to fill their stomachs. Fill ground feeders with seed mixes of cracked corn, millet, and sunflower seeds.

When attracting birds with feeders, the bottom line is diversity. The above are just a few tips, but by all means get creative with design, placement, and the food offered. Then sit back and watch the birds fly in! Happy Bird Gardening! Gardening for Birds will continue in 2 weeks when we will discuss bird gardening threats (squirrels, cats, windows, and hawks).

C. BUSY BREEDING BIRTHING BUNNIES. Try to say that 3 times fast! Everyone has been noticing the cottontails out and about in the mornings and evenings, slowly hopping about to and fro, looking for some tasty clover to munch on. This is a busy time of year for the eastern cottontail rabbit, as it is the peak of the bunny birthing season when litter sizes are the largest. Cottontails breed from roughly February through September in Ohio, and with gestations of only 28 days, the does (female rabbits) are birthing young kits consistently throughout the spring and summer. Female cottontails ovulate upon copulation, meaning they can conceive at any time as long as they are not already pregnant. Often, does conceive again almost immediately after giving birth! Following a "face-off" in which the male and female cottontail undergo an intense staring contest, the female makes several charges which causes the male to jump straight up into the air while the female runs underneath him. The female then allows the male to mate with her. On average, a female cottontail will have 3 litters per year, with the potential for 5, and an average of 5 kits per litter, with the potential for 7. That means a single doe can potentially have 35 young every year! In May and June litter sizes are at their largest, but as July approaches the need to breed and birth slows down and litter sizes are typically smaller, allowing the females a long-deserved rest from a very, very busy breeding birthing bunny season.

D. TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING. Erik Draper reported visiting an Amish vegetable farm that was having problems with garlic plants collapsing and apparent rotting of the bulbs. When asked about their cultural practices, it was indicated that the raised bed was always loaded with manure and organic matter to make the soil really rich for garlic growing. Pulling up a plant, the reason for the decline was easy to determine… the basal plate was essentially gone and there were no existing roots! Ten additional plants were pulled up to determine why the plants were declining and each plant exhibited the exact same symptoms! Using a hand lens to examine the remaining pieces of the basal plate, it was determined that the problem was caused by the feeding of BULB MITES (Rhizoglyphus spp.).

This mite has a main body that is shiny, smooth, bulb-shaped, and slightly transparent white in color. These mites have been described as looking like tiny pearls with legs. They are extremely small (from 0.02 - 0.04") and are very slow moving. These mites are usually found in clusters underneath the leaf scales, at the basal plate near the roots. Although the direct feeding of these mites on garlic and onions can cause problems, it is their feeding which allows pathogens to penetrate plant tissues. These feeding wounds are ideal points of entry for fungal pathogens like Fusarium spp., Sclerotium spp., and various soft-rotting bacteria.

Bulb mites feed on fungi, decaying-plant tissue, and organic matter like manures, but they are not typically considered a primary plant pest. These mites can survive in the soil on organic matter left behind from the previous crop. The best way to control bulb mites is to allow the vegetation from the previous crop to breakdown before any new crop, especially garlic or onions are planted again. Low areas of the field that stay wet and have high levels of organic matter are especially prone to greater bulb mite survival. So in trying to enrich their soil using as much manure and organic matter as possible, the garlic growers had actually created the ideal environment for problems with the bulb mite! Remember, if a little is good… then just leave things alone!
E. WHAT IS NORMAL FOR THE PLANT? This is question #2 of the '20 Questions of Plant Diagnostics', [http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/pdf/PP401_03.pdf], and is often harder to answer than we sometimes think, especially for those new to the plant diagnostic process. But, it is also commonly a stumper leading to missed conclusions, even for the seasoned diagnosticians. One BYGLer was reminded of this when strolling and taking pictures at Secrest Arboretum. First, was the tale of two pines growing side by side. One of the pines was *Pinus contorta* ‘Taylor’s Sunburst’ with bright yellow new growth and green older growth. The other pine was a *Pinus mugo* ‘Aurea’ with bright yellow older growth from last season and green new growth from this season. Both were normal for these particular pines. But out of the context of knowing the unusual coloration characteristics for these particular pines, it could be very difficult to know whether these were normal or exhibiting some type of nutrient deficiency or other malady. Plant diagnostics provides a lifetime of learning these nuances.

The second pine example was mis-diagnosed for years at our Ohio Plant Diagnostic Workshop. Back in the 1990s over a 3 year period, we discussed an example of a Japanese red pine with clusters of cones tightly aggregated together on the stem. Sometimes up to a dozen or two dozen tiny female cones were clumped together. Assembled professional diagnosticians were stumped year after year, questioning whether this clustering was some sort of herbicide-induced proliferation of cones or was some kind of genetic mutation. Then one year in review, we noted that the Japanese red pine is, but of course, *Pinus densiflora*. Hmm. How silly of us. A dense aggregation of cones is in fact the norm for this species, as one might suspect from the specific epithet of “*densiflora*”. Ain’t diagnosis (and all ‘larning’) wonderful?

3. BUG BYTES.

A. HOLLYHOCKS UNDER SIEGE. Curtis Young reported that the common hollyhocks (*Alcea rosea*) in his area are under severe attack by insects and disease. There are at least 3 insects attacking in force, the HOLLYHOCK LEAFMINER (unknown Dipterous sp.), the HOLLYHOCK SAWFLY (*Neoptilia malvacearum*), and the HOLLYHOCK WEEVIL (*Apion longirostre*). And the disease of concern is HOLLYHOCK RUST (*Puccinia malvacearum*).

The hollyhock leafminer and sawfly both attack the leaves of the hollyhock. The leafminer produces a serpentine mine in the leaf, leaving behind a pale-green trail that widens as the mining larva matures. The amount of damage produced by the mine is insignificant to the overall condition of the plant, but aesthetically, the mine is somewhat distracting. The hollyhock sawfly on the other hand, is quite destructive to the leaves of the hollyhock. Although the individual larva is rather small, working in teams, they strip one surface and the middle of entire leaves in a skeletonizing type of feeding. Their feeding can be mistaken for Japanese beetle feeding. The hollyhock weevils spend most of their time finding mates, mating, and then attacking the flower buds to feed and for the females to deposit their eggs in the ovaries of the flower where the larvae will eventually attack and devour the developing seeds. Their activities damage the flowers, and more importantly, destroy the reproductive potential of the hollyhock. Since hollyhocks reseed themselves to keep a population going in the garden, given enough feeding damage by the hollyhock weevils, populations of hollyhock could die out over time.

Of the three insects attacking hollyhock, only the sawfly and weevil need to be regularly managed to keep the hollyhocks healthy, growing and attractive in the garden. General purpose synthetic pyrethroids (e.g. ASANA, permethrin, bifenthrin) should keep both species in check, although retreatment may be needed through the growing season.

What the hollyhock sawfly is not eating, hollyhock rust is infecting. It appears that massive amounts of spores of hollyhock rust have been circulating this spring. Almost every bottom leaf of the hollyhocks are covered with the pustules of the rust and the disease is progressing up to the higher leaves of the plants. The orange, turning to brick-red and chocolate-brown, rust pustules are a common sight for almost everyone who has ever grown hollyhocks, but this year, it appears that no hollyhock is being spared. This fungus, like the rose black spot fungus, has a repeating cycle that just goes on and on as the season progresses, so removing infested leaves during and after the season is one big key to getting the disease under control. Otherwise, it just gets worse and worse. Fungicides help but must be applied multiple times and will not be enough without the help of removing pathogen inoculum.
when infestations do occur. A further issue with hollyhock rust is also an aspect of sanitation - removal of additional hosts of the rust. It turns out that this fungus also infects a number of hollyhock's relatives in the Malvaceae family, including weeds such as the round-leaved mallow, *Malva rotundifolia*.

**B. SLUGS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO STRAWBERRIES.** Gary Gao reported that slugs caused some damage to strawberry fruits at both OSU South Centers and his own garden. Slugs chewed deep ragged holes into the surface of berries, occurring most frequently under the cap. Slugs leave slime trails on the fruit or leaf surfaces as they move around.

To control slugs, a removal of straw mulch after harvest, summer renovation, and delaying fall mulching as long as is practical, are effective steps in reducing slug populations. Another method of control is setting traps made of wet boards or burlap bags out in the evening. Remove and destroy trapped slugs the following morning. Shallow dishes of beer can be used as baits under the traps. Although trapping can lessen slug populations, it usually does not remove enough to result in significantly less injury to fruit.

Slug baits that contain iron phosphate may be used in strawberries only if the baits are applied to the soil or mulch surface and do not contact plants. Baits are most likely to work when used at the full labeled rate and when they are applied before ripe berries are present.

**C. WINDSHIELD WIPES.** BYGLers also reported on a number of other insects last week including:

* Curtis Young reported on a case of mistaken identity. Apparently the EYED CLICK BEETLE (*Alaus oculatus*) is flying and being discovered by homeowners. The eyed click beetle is a relatively large, black beetle with speckles of white to creamy white markings all over its body. These characteristics lead some to believe that the beetle might be the Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*). There are a couple of features that distinguish the two beetles from one another. In comparison to the Asian longhorned beetle, the eyed click beetle has short antennae, small mandibles, a pair of large, false eye spots on the back of its thorax, and a mechanism on the underside of its thorax that allows the beetle to right itself by flipping itself into the air. The mechanism makes an audible "click" when the beetle sets it off, thus the common name of these beetles.

* Curtis Young also reported that POTATO BEETLES (*Leptinotarsa* spp.) are active and devouring potato plants and other members of the night shade family (family Solanacae) (e.g. tomatoes, horsetail, nightshade, etc.). Many may not realize it, but there are two potato beetles in the eastern US, the COLORADO POTATO BEETLE (CPB) (*L. decemlineata*) and the FALSE POTATO BEETLE (FPB) (*L. juncta*). Both beetles are similar in appearance as adults and larvae. The adult potato beetles have stripes that run the length of the body, alternating black and white. Their larvae have a similar body shape and texture with differences in their coloration and spotting patterns. CPB larvae are pinkish to red-orange in color with two lines of black spots down each side of their bodies. FPB larvae are creamy pink to almost white in color with one line of black spots down each side of their bodies. In either case, watch night shade plants closely for feeding activity. The potato beetles can demolish plants seemingly overnight. Hand-picking may be one of the only defenses against the potato beetles, because they are resistant to many insecticides. Newer insecticides such as spinosad based products (e.g. Bonide Colorado Potato Beetle Beater) are still effective.

* Curtis Young reported on false hopes associated with ash trees attacked by EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) in his area, and most likely in other areas, where the impacts of this beetle continue to be felt. He has visited multiple sites in EAB territory where ash trees look like they are in very good condition with full canopies. The owners of these trees are seeing numerous ash trees die in their local area and now want to know if they can protect their healthy looking trees before they too die. Unfortunately upon close inspection of these trees, they too are highly infested, the trees just don't "know" that they are already dead. Curtis has seen trees like these look good in one season and be completely dead by the next. For those who own ash trees and wish to protect them with insecticides, treatments need to be started before EAB gets to an area in full force. In other words, if one can look around in a neighborhood and see multiple dead ashes from EAB infestation, even if their ash tree looks like it is in full canopy, it may already be too late to start insecticide treatments. On the other hand, if one wants to take a shot at protecting an ash tree, go for it! If it is too late, the tree will show it in a season or two.
4. DISEASE DIGEST.

A. DYING TOMATO LEAVES ARE SPOTTED. Pam Bennett expressed her worries and concerns regarding the tremendous loss of tomatoes last year in southwest Ohio, due to the fungal pathogen *Septoria lycopersici*, commonly known as SEPTORIA LEAF SPOT. Symptoms on tomato appear as necrotic spots on the lower leaves of tomatoes, eventually causing the leaf to turn yellow and then die. This disease can occur at any stage of plant development, from young seedlings to transplants; however, it is more typically observed on the older, lower leaves and stems, especially as fruits begin to set and develop. Spots may also appear on stems, calyces and blossoms, but rarely on fruit. Tomato leaves heavily infected by Septoria will turn yellow, dry up, and then drop off. This defoliation begins at bottom and progressively moves to the top of the plant.

The fungal lesions first appear on the undersides of older leaves as small, water-soaked circular spots 1/16 - 1/8" in diameter. The centers of these spots are grey or tan, with a dark brown margin. With maturity, the spots may enlarge to about 1/4" across and eventually may even merge with each other. The key identification aspect to this disease is in the center of the lesion (spot) where there are many dark-brown to black, pimple-like structures called pycnidia, or fruiting bodies, of this fungus. The pycnidia are large enough to be easily seen with the eye or with the aid of a hand lens. To slow the spread of this disease, use crop rotation, look for cultivars with good genetic resistance, and practice good garden sanitation. If infected plants are found, rogue them out and pick up the leaves. One of the more effective ways to manage this disease is through the use of foliar fungicides containing chlorothalonil. Through the use of repeated applications of fungicides during the growing season, it is possible to help prevent infection of the tomato plant leaves by the Septoria fungus.

B. DISEASES IN BRIEF. Already those sycamores and London planetrees that looked decimated by SYCAMORE ANTHRACNOSE this spring are beginning to fill out with new foliage and look far better as the almost annual ritual of this disease passes. The orange spots on hawthorn leaves due to CEDAR HAWTHORN RUST and CEDAR APPLE RUST and the orange pustules on hawthorn fruits due to CEDAR QUINCE RUST are now showing up from spores released from junipers earlier this spring…APPLE SCAB symptoms are common on susceptible crabapples, with some leaf yellowing and defoliation resulting…HOLLYHOCK RUST and its orange to rust red pustules is prevalent on hollyhocks, adding to the insect problems to result in some truly hammered hollyhock plantings.

5. TURF TIPS.

A. THE LONG AND SHORT OF MOWING. Mowing height is one of the primary cultural practices that can improve and maintain the health of grasses in a lawn. It is also the one cultural practice that consumes the most time in maintaining a lawn because of the frequency with which it must occur throughout the growing season. Because of its repetitiveness, some have been tempted to cut grass very short (<1") in an attempt to reduce the number of times the lawn needs to be mown. Unfortunately, the only thing this may cut is the health and longevity of the lawn.

Most lawns are a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall and fine fescues. These grasses should be cut to a height of 2 1/2" - 3" above the soil line. Grass cut to this height shades the soil, which helps to keep weeds from germinating and establishing within the lawn. This shading also helps to keep the soil temperature cooler. Mowing the grass shorter may make it more susceptible to injury from drought and disease. Shorter grass has a smaller, shallower root system. Thus, during dry spells the grasses restricted root system, may limit its access to water. By having limited access to water, thus limits the grasses ability to sustain growth. As a rule of thumb, remove no more than 1/3 of the total plant height in one mowing.

It is also important to regularly sharpen the mower blade(s). Dull and/or damaged mower blades will shred the tips of the grass blades rather than cutting them. The shredded tips of the grass blades will take on a brown to light tan color giving an impression that the grass has been frosted or diseased. Mower blades can be sharpened with a grinding wheel and/or a file, but be careful not to over grind or file one side of the blade. This can throw off the balance of the blade, resulting in extra wear and tear on the mower engine. To determine if the mower blade is out
of balance, put a nail in the wall and hang the blade from the hole in the center of the blade. If the blade rotates such that one end pulls downward, file more off the blade on the heavy end.

6. INDUSTRY INSIGHTS: No Report.

7. WEATHERWATCH. The following weather information summarizes data collected at various Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center (OARDC) Weather Stations spanning the dates from January 1 - May 31, 2012, with the exception of the soil temperatures which are readings from Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 6:05 p.m.

Year-to-date precipitation totals at each of the weather stations are reporting less than normal precipitation totals.

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<td>Columbus</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>12.34&quot;</td>
<td>17.8&quot;</td>
<td>69.08/67.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piketon</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>15.73&quot;</td>
<td>17.5&quot;</td>
<td>77.42/76.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a link to the OARDC Weather Stations, visit: [http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/centernet/weather.htm]

8. COMING ATTRACTIONS.

A. SOUTHWEST OHIO BYGLIVE! DIAGNOSTIC WALK-ABOUT. The third 2012 Southwest Ohio BYGLive! Diagnostic Walk-About will be held on Monday, June 11, at the Stanley M. Rowe Arboretum, 4600 Muchmore Rd., Indian Hill, 45243. The program will start at 12:00 p.m. and walk-about with our host Chris Daeger looking at plants, plant pests, diseases, and other points of considerable interest until 3:00 p.m.

This monthly hands-on training series for Green Industry professionals provides the following training credits: ISA Certified Arborist CEU's; ONLA OCNT credits, and Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) CEU's for Landscape Architects. Visit the following website for more information including registration information as well as driving directions: [http://hamilton.osu.edu/topics/horticulture/byglive-diagnostic-walk-about].

B. PLANT DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS UNDONE WORKSHOP. On Wednesday, June 13, 2012 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. there will be a plant diagnostic workshop at Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio. The workshop will highlight the latest and greatest plant maladies and diseases that are afflicting plants throughout Ohio. As is the tradition of our diagnostic workshops, there will be multiple plant samples to help refine critical diagnostic skills. There will be exploration of findings regarding Imrelis symptoms, discussions of new and emerging diseases in Ohio, and samples, samples, samples! Jim Chatfield and Erik Draper will be the instructors for this hands-on, clinical catharsis of plant diseases workshop. Lunch, handouts, snacks and prizes are all included in the $40.00 fee for this workshop. To register for this workshop or to obtain additional information, please contact the Ohio State University Extension, Geauga County at 440-834-4656.

C. 2012 NW OHIO SUMMER SESSION. Save the date for this year's NW Ohio Summer Session for green industry professionals. The event will be held on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at Owens Community College just south of Toledo, Ohio. The yearly event is kicked off with lunch, followed by concurrent sessions during the afternoon. Registration materials will be available next month.

D. WOODY PLANT ID WORKSHOP AT SECREST ARBORETUM - NOTE: DATE CHANGE!!! On Wednesday, August 8, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., there will be a woody plant identification class held at
Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio. This workshop will highlight plant identification terms, describe and explain them, and then show these characteristics on plants and samples. Common taxonomic terms used in most dichotomous plant identification keys will also be discussed. Jim Chatfield and Erik Draper will be the instructors for this hands-on, samples galore workshop. Lunch, handouts, snacks and prizes are all included in the $40 fee for this workshop. To register for this workshop or to obtain additional information, contact the Ohio State University Extension, Geauga County at 440-834-4656.

E. 2012 COMMERCIAL NEW APPLICATOR TRAINING SCHEDULED. The Ohio State University Extension's Pesticide Safety Education Program has scheduled four training dates for those preparing to take the commercial applicator's exams including Core, 8 (Turf), 5 (Industrial Vegetation); 6c (Ornamental Weed) and 2c (Agricultural Weed). The morning session also qualifies as Trained Serviceperson training. The dates are August 29, 2012; and September 26, 2012. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Additional information, including pre-registration is available on the web at [http://pested.osu.edu/commnewapp.html].

F. NEXT “GREEN INDUSTRY FIX” WEBINAR COMING UP. Next Wednesday morning (June 13) will be the next monthly webinar partnership between the Ohio Nursery Landscape Association and the Ohio State University Extension Nursery Landscape and Turf Team. The June Webinar will feature diagnostic tips, hemlock woolly adelgids, ambrosia beetles and plant stress, other invasive species, and additional items. Questions from attendees are encouraged and we plan to include diagnostic images from the audience submitted for diagnosis as part of the program. The scheduled webinars for 2012 (7:30 – 8:20 Wednesdays) are: June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, and October 10.

These webinars offered by ONLA are a quick, affordable, convenient way to learn...helping with WHAT you need to know, WHEN you need to know it. These are ‘hot topic’ seminars delivered to your computer and hosted by speakers from the Ohio State University Extension Nursery, Landscape, & Turf Team. You will be given timely and useful information on current and emerging issues critical to your green industry business: from plant selection to pest management, from weed control to product knowledge, from invasive species to infectious diseases. It’s a short course class delivered to your office! Webinars are visual and will include many images of pests and plants.

For registration information for the Get Your Green Industry Fix webinars: contact ONLA at 614-899-1195 or 800-825-5062. If you have a question or topic you would like to address we will try to include it in this version of the webinar – contact Chatfield.1@osu.edu, boggs.47@osu.edu or stone.9.

9. BYGLOSOPHY: "Cockroaches really put my "all creatures great and small" creed to the test." - Astrid Alauda

APPENDIX - ADDITIONAL INTERNET RESOURCES:

Buckeye Turf
http://buckeyeturf.osu.edu

Emerald Ash Borer Information
http://ashalert.osu.edu

Growing Degree Days and Phenology for Ohio
http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/

Hungry Pests Website
http://www.HungryPests.com

Ohio State University Department of Horticulture and Crop Science Plantfacts http://plantfacts.osu.edu/web/

Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program
The C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (CWEPPDC)
http://ppdc.osu.edu/

USDA APHIS Beetle Buster Website (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
http://www.beetlebusters.info/

USDA APHIS Beetle Detective Website (Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer)
http://beetledetectives.com/

Following were the participants in the June 5th conference call: Pam Bennett (Clark); Brad Bergefurd (OSU South Centers); Jim Chatfield (Horticulture and Crop Science); Erik Draper (Geauga); Dave Dyke (Hamilton); Gary Gao (OSU South Centers); Cindy Meyer (Butler); Nancy Taylor (C. Wayne Ellet Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic); Marne Titchenell (School of Environment and Natural Resources); Curtis Young (Van Wert); and Randy Zondag (Lake).

BYGL is available via email, contact Cheryl Fischnich [fischnich.1@cfaes.osu.edu] to subscribe. Additional fact sheet information on any of these articles may be found through the OSU Fact Sheet database [http://plantfacts.osu.edu/].

BYGL is a service of OSU Extension and is aided by support from the ONLA (Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association) [http://onla.org/; http://buckeyegardening.com/] to the OSU Extension Nursery, Landscape and Turf Team (ENLTT). Any materials in this newsletter may be reproduced for educational purposes providing the source is credited.

BYGL is available online at: [http://bygl.osu.edu], a website sponsored by the Ohio State University Department of Horticulture and Crop Sciences (HCS) as part of the "Horticulture in Virtual Perspective." The online version of BYGL has images associated with the articles and links to additional information.

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