Video of the Week:  Watering Container Plants

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grape Growing Workshop to be Held

In cooperation with K-State Research and Extension, Lyon County Extension Office, and Kansas Department of Agriculture, Highland Community College will host a Vineyard Workshop on Monday, June 18th. The workshop is free to the public and will run 3:00-6:00 pm at Eagle Creek Vineyard located at 767 Rd J5, Olpe, KS, 66865. Dominic Martin, HCC Vineyard Manager and Viticulture-Enology Instructor will conduct the workshop discussing vine nutrition, vine tissue analysis, canopy management, vine balance and more. To RSVP, please contact either Scott Kohl at HCC at 785-456-6006 / skohl@highlandcc.edu or Lyon County Extension Agent Brian Rees, 620-341-3220 / brees@ksu.edu.

VEGETABLES

Do Not Over-Fertilize Tomatoes

Though tomatoes need to be fertilized to yield well, too much nitrogen can result in large plants with little to no fruit. Tomatoes should be fertilized before planting and sidedressed with a nitrogen fertilizer three times during the season.

The first sidedressing should go down one to two weeks before the first tomato ripens. The second should be applied two weeks after the first tomato ripens and the third one month after the second.
Common sources of nitrogen-only fertilizers include nitrate of soda, urea, and ammonium sulfate. Blood meal is an organic fertilizer that contains primarily, but not exclusively, nitrogen. Use only one of the listed fertilizers and apply at the rate given below.

- Nitrate of soda (16-0-0): Apply 2/3 pound (1.5 cups) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.
- Blood Meal (12-1.5-.6): Apply 14 ounces (1.75 cups) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.
- Urea (46-0-0): Apply 4 ounces (½ cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.
- Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0): Apply 0.5 pounds (1 cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.

If you cannot find the above materials, you can use a lawn fertilizer that is about 30 percent nitrogen (nitrogen is the first number in the set of three) and apply it at the rate of 1/3 pound (3/4 cup) per 30 feet of row. Do not use a fertilizer that contains a weed killer or weed preventer. (WU)

Onions Developing

This is the time of year that onions grow and develop rapidly. Regular watering (if needed) and a light fertilization are helpful to maximize growth. Onions develop so that as much as 2/3 of the bulb remains out of the soil. This is normal and there is no need to cover the bulb with soil. Onions are nearing harvest time when the tops begin to fall over. You may wish to break over the tops that haven’t fallen to encourage drying of the neck. Allow a few days to pass and then dig the onions to insure they don’t sunburn. Temporarily store them in a dry, well-ventilated area for a week or two before cutting the tops to insure the necks are completely dry. Remove the foliage (or braid the leaves) and store in a cool, dry location. (WU)

FLOWERS

Rose Rosette

Rose rosette is a serious disease caused by an aster yellows phytoplasma. It is carried from one rose to another by a spindle-shaped, yellow to brown mite. Transmission of the disease has also been shown experimentally through grafting or through contaminated pruning shears. Infection is thought to start with rapid elongation of a new shoot. The rapid shoot growth may continue for several weeks to a length of two to three feet. Following shoot elongation, a witches' broom or clustering of small
branches occurs. The stems develop excessive thorniness and produce small, deformed leaves with a reddish-purple pigmentation. Though KnockOut roses are resistant to many diseases, they are susceptible to this one.

There is no effective control measure for infected plants. In garden settings, infected plants should be removed and destroyed, including roots. Any roots that remain after plant removal may produce infected shoots which can harbor the disease.

If possible, eliminate all multiflora rose plants from the vicinity as they are extremely susceptible and will act as a carrier. Multiflora rose is the wild rose often seen growing in ditches and pastures.

Since the disease can be transmitted by pruning shears, disinfect the shears when moving from one plant to another by using rubbing alcohol or a disinfectant such as Lysol. (WU)

**PESTS**

**Borer Control in Trees**

We are starting to see numerous reports of borer holes in trees. What people are seeing are the holes of the borers exiting the tree; not entering it. In other words, these are borers that attacked the tree last year and are emerging to lay more eggs.

The first thing to remember regarding borer control is that borers tend to attack trees under stress. The best borer control is a healthy, vigorous tree. Last summer was so hot and dry that there wasn’t enough sap flow to drown the small borer as it tried to enter the tree. Therefore, it is vitally important to water trees during dry periods in order to maintain good sap flow. Also, mulching under the tree can reduce competition from other plants and provide a more root-friendly environment. However, sometimes insecticides are needed to help protect trees that have already been attacked. Be advised, though, that severely weakened trees may die regardless of what is done. Here are the borer products available to homeowners:

**Imidacloprid:** Products with imidacloprid have increased dramatically in recent years. Examples of such products include Bayer Tree & Shrub Insect Control, Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Control, Ortho Max Tree & Shrub Insect Control, Bonide Systemic Granules and Fertilome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Granules.

This product is labeled for both roundheaded and flatheaded borers. It contains the same active ingredient found in Merit and is systemic in the tree. Historically systemic insecticides have given poor control of borers. It appears that imidacloprid is better on flatheaded borers than
roundheaded borers though even the results on flatheaded borers are inconsistent. Flatheaded borers are more likely to be controlled because they feed more in the vascular tissue than the roundheaded borers and are more likely to take up the insecticide. Examples of flatheaded borers include the flatheaded apple tree borer and the bronze birch borer. The lilac/ash borer is a roundheaded borer. This product should be applied several months before protection is needed to allow time for complete distribution.

**Permethrin:** Permethrin is found in numerous products including Bonide Eight, Fertilome Indoor/Outdoor Insect Spray and Fertilome Kill-A-Bug II. However, these products only have Peach Twig Borer and Lesser Peachtree Borer on the label. Fortunately, permethrin is also found in Hi-Yield Lawn, Garden, Pet and Livestock Insect Control, Hi-Yield 38 Plus and the commercial product Astro. These products have a wide borer label including both roundheaded and flatheaded borers. Permethrin is not systemic and works by killing the adult insect before it lays eggs or killing the young borer larva as it hatches from the egg and tries to bore into the bark. Therefore, the product must be present on the bark before the eggs hatch. It is important to apply the product to runoff so that all the little nooks and crannies in the bark are treated. Only the trunk and lower sections of major branches need to be treated.

Keeping the product on the trunk for some of these borers can be a real challenge. For example, trees attacked by the flatheaded apple tree borer would need protection from May through August. The label recommends reapplication every 21 days. Note that none of these products are labeled for borers in fruiting apple trees. Again, the best borer control is a healthy, vigorous tree. (WU)

**Pine Tip Moth**

The second generation spray for pine tip moth should be applied 7 to 10 days following the peak catch of the tip moths in traps. Bob Neier, one of our Horticulture Agents in Sedgwick County, stated that Willy Goevert, Christmas tree grower, reported that the peak catch was on June 4. Therefore, sprays should be applied as soon as possible in the southern part of the state.

This insect pest is of main concern for Christmas tree growers and those with Mugho pines in the landscape. A number of products are available for control including lambda-cyhalothrin (Scimitar, Spectracide Triazicide, Bonide Caterpillar Killer, Bonide Beetle Killer) and acephate (Orthene). Spinosad is an effective organic control (Conserve; Fertilome Borer, Bagworm, Leaf Miner and Tent Caterpillar Spray; Captain Jack’s Dead Bug Brew). (WU)
Blister Beetles on Vegetables

These beetles are notorious for quickly stripping vegetables (especially tomatoes) of their foliage. There are several species of blister beetles which vary in size (often between 0.5-0.75 inch long) and color (such as black, gray or brown-striped), but most are recognized by their elongated, narrow, cylindrical, soft bodies with middle body part (thorax) narrower than the head or wingcovers.

Some home gardeners like to use hand picking as a nonchemical method for controlling these large insects. However, use caution because these beetles contain a substance called cantharidin.

This chemical is an irritant capable of blistering internal and external body tissues exposed to the chemical. On tender human skin, body fluids of adult blister beetles may cause large, erect, watery blisters. Chemical control of blister beetles is also possible. Cyfluthrin (PowerForce Multi-Insect Killer) and gamma- or lambda-cyhalothrin (Spectracide Triazicide, Bonide Beetle Killer, Bonide Caterpillar Killer) can be used for control. Cyfluthrin has a 0 day waiting period and lambda-cyhalothrin has a 5-day waiting period. (WU)

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