



Pecan Phylloxera



A severe case of Pecan Phylloxera in Harrison County

Gall producing insects are very common in our landscape but maybe none more prevalent than the Pecan Phylloxera. Pecan phylloxera is one of the most common insect pests of pecans (*Carya illinoensis*) but may also affect other species in the *Carya* genus such as hickory. Pecan phylloxera are small yellow insects that look very much like aphids. We seldom see

them because they are encased inside the galls that they cause to form on stems and nuts. The pea- to marble sized, knot-like galls these insects cause make them easy to identify. Pecan phylloxera overwinter as eggs in cracks and crevices on limbs and branches. Egg hatching coincides with leaf bud break in the spring, and the young nymphs immediately crawl to the developing leaf buds and begin feeding. Their feeding affects the growth of the leaf tissue, causing the formation of the hollow, knotty galls that encase the feeding nymph. These galls cause severe deformation of developing twigs and nuts.

On heavily infested trees, more than 70 percent of the new terminal tissue can be affected, resulting in trees that are unsightly and unproductive. Fortunately, outbreaks of pecan phylloxera are somewhat cyclic, and trees may experience heavy infestations for a year or so, followed by several years of low populations. Pesticide treatments will not be effective after the protective gall forms around the insect. To be effective, treatments, such as Sevin, must be applied as soon as leaf buds begin to break in the spring and before there is more than 1 inch of new leaf growth.



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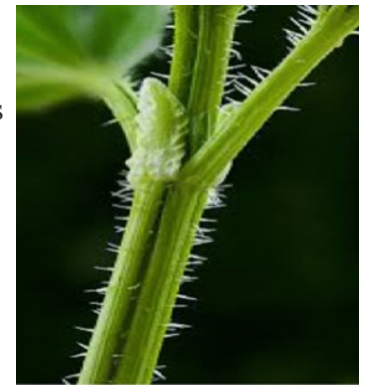
Stinging Nettle

Over the past few years, we have been getting more and more questions about a plant seen growing in many areas this time of year that causes a painful, burning irritation to the skin if touched. This plant is called stinging nettle.

Stinging nettle (*Urtica chamaedryoides*) is a winter annual that is commonly seen in late winter and early spring. While there are some medicinal uses for this plant it is often considered a weed. It can be found in pastures, livestock pens, around buildings, and in shaded areas of lawns. Each plant has hundreds of tiny, barbed hairs on it that easily embed in the skin when touched. They contain a toxin that can cause severe irritation that can last for hours. It can cause a burning and stinging sensation wherever it contacts your skin. It can cause problems with animals also if they come in contact with it.

Stinging nettle can be difficult to control, but there are options. Mowing does not help control this weed and can spread it to other areas if seeds are developed. Cultural Control options are mostly limited to digging out roots and rhizomes. Avoid contact with foliage and stem pieces; wear gloves and clothing when removing. 2,4-D gives little to no control of this weed alone. Glyphosate, applied as a spot treatment, does not always provide effective control either. Combination selective postemergence herbicide products that include triclopyr, 2,4-D, 2,4-DP, MCPA and dicamba are usually more effective than other combinations or when used separately.

Repeat applications of herbicides may be needed. If left untreated, stinging nettle will usually die off in May as the weather starts to warm up.



Garden Calendar: April

Planting

- Divide Violets, Shasta Daisies, Liriope, Ajuga, Mums and other Perennials.
- Plant Okra, Melons, Peas, Corn, Beans, Eggplant, Cucumbers, and Tomatoes.
- Set out Basil.
- Set out summer annuals if danger of frost is past: Ageratum, Allysum, Begonias, Geraniums, Dianthus, Celosia, Marigolds, Moss Rose, Petunias, Impatiens, Coleus, and Caladiums.
- Plant summer and fall blooming bulbs: Callas, Cannas, Dahlias, Gladiolus, and Gloriosa Lilies.
- Sow Zinnias for early summer blooms.



Fertilizing

- Fertilize Tomatoes with 10-10-10



Pruning

- Remove any freeze-damaged and dead wood.
- Prune Azaleas during or after blooming. Remove faded flowers from Kurume Azaleas.
- Prune flowering shrubs after they finish blooming. If pruning can be done while the shrub is flowering, the trimmed off parts can be brought indoors for floral displays.
- Disbud roses and peonies for specimen flowers.

Mulch

- Always mulch in new plantings to help assure success.



Miscellaneous

- National Arbor Day is the fourth Friday of April.
- Paint and repair garden furniture and other hard construction (bird bath, bird houses, mailbox, deck, etc.).
- Buy Azaleas in bloom to be sure of color.





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Herb Gardening

Once any danger of frost has passed (we never know this year), you can start planting your herb garden. A few things to think about when planting: most need full sun, all need well-drained soil (herbs DO NOT like wet feet), and provide good air circulation. Herbs can be used for cooking, fragrance, landscaping, medicinal purposes (if you are taking other medications, contact your doctor before using herbs or herbal supplements), and for crafts and decoration. Some good herbs for Mississippi gardens include: mint, basil, nasturtium, catnip, chives, dill, garlic, thyme, parsley, and sage. Rosemary will grow best in a pot or in an area with WELL-DRAINED soil.



A proper nutritional balance is important for proper growth. Get a soil test before fertilizing. Overfertilization causes succulent, or weak, growth. Succulent growth dilutes the concentration of essential oils, thus limiting the flavor and aroma of the herbs. On the other hand, inadequate fertilization will limit growth, resulting in stunted and weak plants. Base your fertilizer on the soil test recommendations. If you did not do a soil test, apply a complete, slow-release fertilizer with a 1-2-2 or 1-2-1 ratio of N, P, and K in the spring and again in mid to late summer.

Mulching

Mulch with pine bark, straw, or wood chips, being careful not to pile the mulch around the stem base.

Pruning

Tender herbs should be pruned to remove dead tissue in early spring before growth begins. Herbs valued for their young foliage should be pruned regularly during the growing season to encourage fresh, young growth.

Harvesting

To obtain foliage with the maximum amount of oil, harvest in the early morning, after the dew has dried. If this is not convenient, harvesting may be done anytime. To allow adequate time for regrowth of perennial herbs, do not harvest rigorously after late summer.





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Spring/Summer Weed Control

Lawns are now beginning to show spring growth. Be careful not to push the grass by forcing early growth with lots of fertilizer. If fertilizer is put on too early, it will feed winter weeds and not the turf. A good rule of thumb to follow is to apply fertilizer after you have mowed your turf three times, not necessarily mowing weeds for aesthetic reasons but mowing growing turfgrass. This is because there is typically a 4–6-week delay in root activation after the grass begins to show green growth. Typically, this begins in April in the coastal counties and into May moving northward. This is when you should begin to fertilize your lawn. A **soil test is recommended** to determine your soil nutrient levels to ensure application of proper nutrients and only apply what it actually needed.

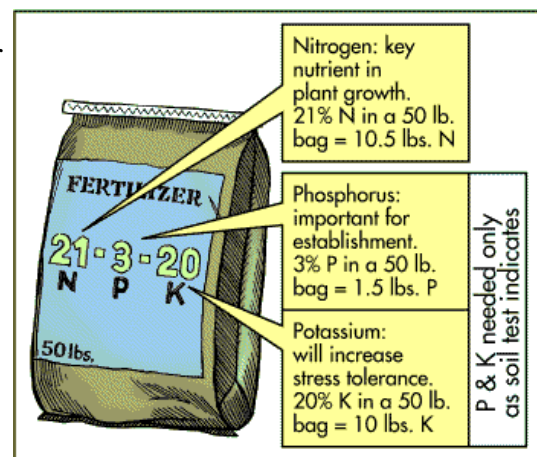
Fertilizer analyses are listed on the bag as percentages of Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium (N-P-K). They are always listed in that order. To convert the particular fertilizer product you have available into units of nitrogen, divide the soil sample recommended amount of the nutrient by the percentage of that nutrient found in the product you have available. For example, most applications you will want to apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 ft², divide the desired 1 pound by the percentage of that nutrient found in the product, .13 in the case of a 33-0-0 product. (1lb N/.33 N=3 lbs. of actual fertilizer product to equal 1 pound of nitrogen).

Along with fertilizer applications, cutting heights are important for healthy grass. Cutting grasses that need to be left tall is a common mistake. Choose an even higher cut for grass in shade. Sharpen your mower blade before the season and shoot for once a month while the turf is actively growing to ensure a quality cut, which can help prevent disease and insect damage. Replace that old oil with new and stale gas with fresh before you start your mower this spring.

Refer to MS State Extension Publication 1322, Establish and Manage Your Home Lawn for more detailed information.

Upcoming Events

- **Pine Belt Beekeepers - Thursday April 6th at 7 p.m. at Lamar County Extension Office**
- **Pine Belt Master Gardeners Spring Garden Day - April 14th at 9 a.m. at the Forrest County Extension Office**
- **Intro to Canning and Food Preservation - May 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lamar County Extension Office**
- **Forrest/Lamar County Forestry Association Spring Field Day - Saturday May 13th at 8 a.m. at the Greenville Community Center in Lumberton**

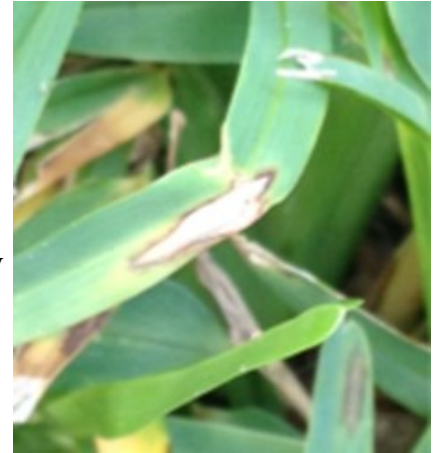




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Gray Leaf Spot of St. Augustine

With warmer, wet weather come lawn diseases. One of the most common is Gray Leaf Spot. Gray Leaf Spot of St. Augustine is a disease caused by a fungus that is common during extended periods of hot, humid weather. Newly sprigged, sodded, or rapidly growing grass is more susceptible than well-established grass. Although primarily a disease of St. Augustine, it also attacks centipede. The fungus causes irregular gray or dirty-yellow spots with brown, purple, or water-soaked borders on leaf blades. Spots may be covered with gray mold in warm, humid weather. Lesions also may occur on stems and spikes. A yellow halo or general chlorosis may occur around or near some spots. Usually you notice the disease first in shaded areas that stay moist longer than other areas. In areas of heavy disease development, the grass may have a burned or scorched appearance resulting from death or spotting of the leaf blades. The fungus thrives, and the disease is most noticeable when air temperatures are 70–85 °F, but it can reproduce and increase at cooler temperatures.



Gray Leaf Spot on St. Augustine in a lawn in Biloxi

For spores to germinate and infect the turf, they need 16 hours of free moisture on the leaf surface. Germinated spores penetrate the plant either directly or through the stomates (natural openings in the leaf). Infection occurs about eight hours after spore germination. High humidity and extended free leaf moisture for more than 24 hours are necessary for an epidemic. The fungus overwinters on infected plants and plant residue and as spores. Wind carries the spores to new infection sites, as do splashed rain, irrigation water, and animals. Too much nitrogen fertilization can worsen disease on certain types of St. Augustine. This disease usually doesn't kill an entire lawn.

Many lawns will have some Gray Leaf Spot, so control depends on the severity of the disease. In severe cases, repeated applications of a fungicide may be necessary. The best fungicide available for homeowner use contains the active ingredient Myclobutanil. Green Light Fung-Away Systemic Lawn Fungicide and Monterey Lawn Fungicide are a couple to choose from. Read all label directions.



Mississippi State University Extension Service and Pine Belt Master Gardeners present our Annual Spring Garden Day



GROOVIN' INTO SPRING

Friday, April 14, 2023

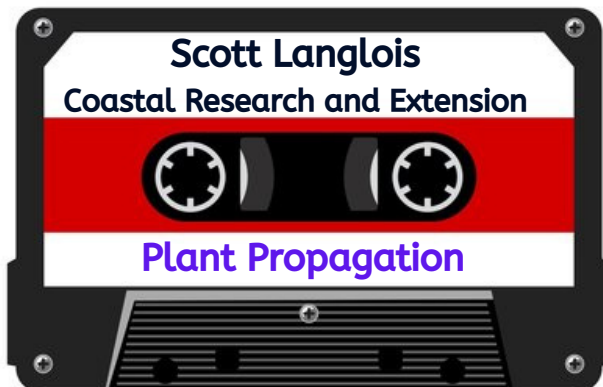
Registration begins at 8:30 am

Program starts at 9:00 am

Forrest County Extension Center

952 Sullivan Dr. Hattiesburg

FEATURING:



FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS

Inside - Raffle, door prizes, and silent auction

Outside - Plant sale and vendors

Kat Kaw, Barrett's Garden Center, Shady Acres Yard Art, and Currie Compost

Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery



THE FLOWER BED NURSERY BIOSOIL ENHANCERS



Events



PEARL RIVER COUNTY BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION MEETING

Dated: Saturday, April 1, 2023

**Location: MSU Pearl River County
Extension Office
204 Julia Street
Poplarville, MS 39470**

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for a time of friendship and fellowship.

The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

Call 601-403-2280 to RSVP for meeting

**Our Featured Speaker will be: Dr. Eddie Smith, MSU Pearl River
County Extension Service County Coordinator/Extension Agent IV**

Topic: Diseases and Pests of Honey Bees



Online Private Applicator Certification Program

A private applicator is a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on his or her own land, leased land, or rented land or on the lands of his or her employer. Private applicators must be at least 18 years old.

In response to limited face-to-face training during the COVID-19 situation, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Plant Industry has approved an online private applicator certification program developed by the MSU Extension Service. Persons needing to obtain or renew their private applicator certification can complete the online training (two video training modules and a competency exam) by using the following link: <http://extension.msstate.edu/content/online-private-applicator-certification-program>. The fee for training and testing is \$20, payable online by credit card, debit card, or eCheck.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

Private Applicator

TRAINING AND TESTING ONLINE

Watch the training modules, pass the exam, and receive your private applicator certification from MDAC Bureau of Plant Industry.

\$20 COST

Visit <http://msuext.ms/agmes>
or contact your local MSU Extension office for info on how to register.