September 2009

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Fall Webworms

In the last few weeks, I’ve noticed the first tents from the fall webworm starting to appear in our trees throughout the county. Fall webworm caterpillars are known to feed on a wide variety of tree species, and while they very rarely kill trees, they do make them aesthetically detracting by defoliating branches and creating large, unsightly webs (see below). Newly hatched caterpillars immediately spin a silken web around the foliage on which they feed, which gets larger and encloses more foliage as they grow. These caterpillars live and move in groups within the web until they are almost ready to pupate. This may be practical if the webs are still small and pruning will not affect the younger crowd to increase their interest in gardening while putting a little cash in their pocket!

Youth entries are judged separately from adults and there are many prizes to be won (up to $15 just for one plant). This is a great opportunity for the younger crowd to increase their interest in gardening while putting a little cash in their pocket!

For a complete list of contest rules visit www.bakercountyfair.org.

Best Regards,

Alison R. Lamborn
Horticulture Extension Agent
Baker County Extension Service

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Pests in the Landscape: Aphids & Sooty Mold

Aphids have soft pear-shaped bodies (green, black, brown, yellow, orange, red or white in color) with piercing mouthparts used to suck the juices from plants. Aphids are different from most other insects in that almost all are female that rapidly reproduce without mating and they give birth to living young instead of laying eggs. Aphids can quickly reduce the aesthetic quality of plants, creating an environment for black sooty mold to grow and even transmitting plant viruses.

You may be able to mechanically control these insects when they are found in small numbers just by spraying them off forcefully with the garden hose. You may be able to mechanically control these insects when they are found in small numbers just by spraying them off forcefully with the garden hose. However, aphid populations seem to be particularly bad this year and therefore, spraying them with an insecticidal soap or lightweight horticultural oil, such as neem oil, is probably justified. You can also try a homemade solution of soapy water by adding two tablespoons of dishwashing liquid (do not use those containing a degreaser or an automatic dishwashing soap or detergent) per gallon of water. Just be sure to treat all parts of the plant, including the undersides of the leaves, and retreat at weekly intervals as necessary or as the product label directs.

In some cases, you may not notice an aphid infestation until a black sooty mold begins to cover the leaves of the plant. Sooty mold grows on a substance called honeydew which is excreted from aphids and other insects including whiteflies, soft scales and mealybugs. Once you eradicate the insects that are feeding on your plants, the sooty mold will start to disappear. Ants are another sign of insect infestation and can be seen traveling up and down the plant in search of the honeydew which they use as food. Checking your plants weekly for insects is recommended.

Checking your plants weekly for insects is recommended. (Check the undersides of the leaves too!) This will allow you to spot treat as needed, preventing severe insect infestations and the highly unattractive black sooty mold. To some this may seem like a hassle, but it is far easier than trying to control large outbreaks.

Healthy (yellow) and parasitized (brown, swollen) oleander aphids.

Daffodil Sale
The Baker County Master Gardeners will be selling daffodil bulbs starting in October to raise money for their program.

The money will be used to fund future Master Gardener projects including educational demonstrations, demonstration gardens and gardening in the classroom.

We will have 8 varieties available for purchase, several of which performed very well in our daffodil demonstration garden last season:

- Pipet (light yellow with white cup; blooms March)
- Noty (white with yellow cup; blooms January)
- Eriechere (double white; blooms February)
- Soleil D’or (yellow with orange/red cup; blooms Jan.)
- Chinese Sacred Lily (white with yellow/orange cup; blooms late Dec.–Jan)

New This Year:
- Ceylon (bright yellow, orange cup with red rim; blooms Feb.)
- Grand Primo (white with creamy yellow cup; blooms March)
- Gigantic Star (large, all yellow; blooms January)

Additional order forms are available on our website!

September Lawn Fertilization

Most lawns can be fertilized this month using a complete fertilizer (containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) such as 16-4-8, 13-3-13 or similar product. However, in many areas, phosphorus is not needed (a soil test through the extension office will determine this) and a 15-0-15, or similar fertilizer can be used. Fertilizers should be applied at a rate determined by the type and amount of nutrient present in the material. When applying a soluble (quick-release) fertilizer, it is recommended that you apply no more than one-half of a pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. If you apply a controlled or slow-release product, then you may apply up to one pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet.

The pounds of fertilizer equal to one pound of actual nitrogen (N) can be calculated for any fertilizer bag using the following formula:

\[
1\ lb. N = 100 + 0.6 \times \text{lbs of fertilizer per 1000 sq ft of lawn}
\]

For example, a slow release 15-0-15 fertilizer equates to:

1 lb. N = 100 + 0.66 lbs of fertilizer per 1000 sq ft

If this product were quick release, we could only apply half this amount or 3.3 lbs of fertilizer per 1000 sq ft.

For information on vegetable gardening, vegetable crops not listed above, planting dates for other parts of Florida and more, check out the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ VF1021 or stop by the Baker County Extension Office for a free copy.

The Edible Garden – Fall Vegetable Planting Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Recommended Varieties</th>
<th>North Florida Planting Dates</th>
<th>Days to Harvest (from seed)</th>
<th>Row Spacing (in)</th>
<th>Plant Spacing (in)</th>
<th>Seed Depth (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beets</td>
<td>Tall Top, Early Wonder, Detroit Dark Red, Cylinda, Red Ace, Yellow Detroit</td>
<td>Sept–Mar</td>
<td>50-65</td>
<td>14-24</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Early Green, Early Dividend, Green Sprouting/Calabrese, Walthum, Packman, DeCicco, Broccoli Raab (Rapini)</td>
<td>Aug–Feb</td>
<td>75-90</td>
<td>30-36</td>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>Red Acre, Savoy, Rio Verde, Flat Dutch, Round Dutch, Wakefield types, Copenhagen Market</td>
<td>Sept–Feb</td>
<td>90-110</td>
<td>24-36</td>
<td>12-24</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>Imperator, Nantes, Danvers, Chantenay</td>
<td>Sept–Mar</td>
<td>65-80</td>
<td>16-24</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>Snowball Strains, Snow Crown, Brocovery</td>
<td>Aug–Oct</td>
<td>75-90</td>
<td>24-30</td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collards</td>
<td>Georgia, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Yates</td>
<td>Aug–Nov</td>
<td>70-80</td>
<td>24-30</td>
<td>10-18</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endive/ Escarole</td>
<td>Endive: Green Curled Ruffe Escarole: Batavian Broadleaf</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>80-95</td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale</td>
<td>Vates Dwarf Blue Curled, Tuscan, Winterbor, Redbor</td>
<td>Sept–Feb</td>
<td>70-80</td>
<td>24-30</td>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kohlrabi</td>
<td>Early White Vienna, Purple Vienna</td>
<td>Sept–Mar</td>
<td>70-80</td>
<td>24-30</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>Crisphead: Great Lakes Butterhead: Ermosa, Bibb, Tom Thumb, Buttercunch</td>
<td>Sept–Oct</td>
<td>50-90</td>
<td>12-24</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>Southern Giant Curled, Florida Broad Leaf, Tendergreen, Giant Red, Green Wave, Mizuna</td>
<td>Sept–May</td>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>14-4</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions, bulbning</td>
<td>Granex (yellow)</td>
<td>Sept–Dec</td>
<td>120-160</td>
<td>12-24</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>1/2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>Melody, Bloomsdale Longstanding, Tyee, Space</td>
<td>Oct–Nov</td>
<td>45-60</td>
<td>14-8</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry</td>
<td>Camarosa, Sweet Charlie, Festival, Salva, Oso Grande, Chandler</td>
<td>Oct–Nov</td>
<td>90-110</td>
<td>36-40</td>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>—</td>
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</tbody>
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Applying the correct amount of fertilizer will save you money, keep your lawn healthy, and help reduce nutrient pollution.