

Lake County CES Website

www.extension.purdue.edu/counties/lake/

Upcoming Programs

"A Day in the Gardens," LCMGA Garden Walk for information on the event visit:

<http://www.lakecountymastergardeners.com/>

July 8 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Lawn Pest Control (Insects and mammals) with Nikky Witkowski, Purdue Extension Educator

<http://tinyurl.com/2017LawnPestControl>

July 28 9:00 a.m.

Sharpening Your Pruning Tools with Carrie Tauscher, DNR There will be a fee. Sign-up at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2017ToolSharpeningWkshop>

August 25 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Landscape Animal Control Options with Nikky Witkowski, Purdue Extension Educator

<http://tinyurl.com/2017LandscapeAnimalControl>

August 30 6:00 p.m.

Companion Planting with Dolly Foster, MG

<http://tinyurl.com/2017CompanionPlanting>

September 27 6:30 p.m.

"Autumn—Nature's Mosaic" MG Symposium by Lake County Master Gardeners Association

September 16 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Poison Hemlock Versus Others

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,

Purdue University Extension Educator, Lake County

We have to watch out sometimes in our landscapes for those bad plants that like to sneak in. Recently at the Government Center even some Poison Hemlock got itself established in some landscaping (and has been resolved). Keep in mind, this plant look extremely similar to Queen Anne's Lace. The biggest difference is that hemlock will have red/purple on the stems of the plant. So if you see that, it's best to avoid it. This is a poisonous plant that it's main danger is if you inject it. However, everyone had a different tolerance to different things so a skin contact reaction cannot be guaranteed.

With all that said: Elderberries are also in bloom right now and their flowers are similar to the poison hemlock flowers. The difference is the leaves. Hemlock leaves are very fine textured and lacey while the elderberries will have 'beefier' leaves that are not as highly defined.



Hemlock



Elderberry

Oaks Going a Little Yellow?

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,

Purdue University Extension Educator, Lake County

There are certain species of trees where their leaves will go a little yellow between the veins. This can be a common problem among pin oaks and red maples. The oaks tend to suffer from iron deficiency while the maple is a manganese deficiency usually. This is not a deadly problem. It can be treatable, but it requires continued applications to solve the yellowing. The following article talks more in depth on it.

https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/ppdl/Pages/WH_old/hot04/722.html



Chlorosis on maple



Oak

GM Orange?

Janna Beckerman, Professor, Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University

On May 16th, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed that US flower growers were to destroy numerous petunia varieties because they were genetically engineered (GE) to produce more vivid colors. Although the flowers pose no risk to anyone (except apparently, themselves), or the environment, regulations require genetically modified organisms (GMO) to have special permits to be sold in the United States. The USDA continued, stating that “consumers who may have purchased GE petunias need take no action,” and that petunias also “have no sexually compatible wild relatives in the United States, are not plant pests and are not listed as noxious weeds.” The horticulture industry has moved quickly, destroying millions of plants. This is a voluntary response, and as a result, the plants are still available. You can find a list of these plants here:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/downloads/petunia_varieties.pdf

For the short term, the industry is working to remove the plants. In the long-term, hopefully, we will have better policies in place to address grower risks, but more importantly, consumer concerns about genetically modified plants, such as these gorgeous petunias. This is a learning moment, if people are willing to listen. To learn more about GMO plants, and their role in horticulture and agriculture, click here:

<http://fafdl.org/gmobb/gmos-an-introduction/>

Photos by Janna Beckerman



Suspected orange GMO petunia.



This supertunia was listed on the APHIS website as requiring a US permit. It was found here in Indiana.

Easy Way to Keep Geese Away

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,
Purdue University Extension Educator, Lake County

There are times when seeing wildlife is great. When they are mowing down your garden plants, that's not one of them. Canada Geese are known for being good grazers of young foliage or just taking over an area. There are

things you can do to discourage them. There are certain sprays that are deterrents or taste repellants for them. Keep in mind, they still have to munch potentially on the plants in order to be scared off. The other thing you can do is a barrier. That may sound tedious, but it doesn't have to be. Geese want easy access to water as that can be their way to survive. Therefore, if you fence off an area, or their access route to water, you discourage them. They don't need much as you can try even a 'trip wire' as low as 6" off the ground. Other recommendations say to go every 6" up to about 2' high. The reason is so that they might step over the low wire or duck under a high wire, but if you have several strands, they are less likely to go through. You can use a small gauge wire for this or even twine/strings of some sort that hopefully blends into your landscape. Otherwise, go to a local hardware store and buy welded wire fencing or what they call hardware cloth to stop them from reaching your plants.



Things to Watch For:

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,
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Japanese Beetles are making their way into our landscapes so be aware of them and if they have hit a threshold for treatments.

Make sure on your fruit and vegetable plants you are monitoring them during the summer for insect/disease issues. It's easier to diagnose these in season than doing autopsies on plants! There are some things that will start to occur on tomatoes if you are not careful.

Squash and cucurbit plants can be lots of fun since you have so many: zucchini, yellow, cucumbers, spaghetti, etc. Watch during flowering to make sure you have male and female flowers! This is a concern many years as I will get lots of calls about all the 'fruits' falling off and the culprit was most likely all female flowers and too few male flowers. Or the reverse.

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