

Lake County CES Website

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

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Upcoming Programs

New Adventures in Back Yard Fruit

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. (CST)

Lake County Extension Office

Apple Pruning / Grafting Workshop

March 9, 2017 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (CST)

Lake County Extension Office

For more information or to sign-up go to

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

Or call (219) 755-3240

Rose Slug Sawfly

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,

Purdue University Extension Educator, Lake County

In March to April you may start to see some holy roses. Japanese Beetles as they are not to blame...yet! In the really early season of the year, there is another insect that is hard to see that causes damage to the leaves. It can be severe at times where there will either be lots of brown spots or holes. This damage is caused by the Rose Slug Sawfly.

This insect is really small and can be easily overlooked as its coloration will be similar to the leaf itself. The insect will feed on the underside of the leaf in early stages of life. When young, its mouth is too small to be able to chew all the way through the leaf. That is why the damage can appear to be browned spots at first (they leave only the epidermis tissue of the leaf) that may later fall out as it dries to become a hole in the middle of the leaf. As they get older and larger, the insect can start actually removing all layers of the leaf much like a Japanese Beetle would damage it.

When the damage is minor, let them have their fill. That is at least the most environmental solution to the problem or go find them (Good Luck! They camouflage well!) and pick them off. If their damage become severe, they are pretty easy to control with carbamate (Sevin) or bifenthrin (Talstar). There may be other products available as well. Please do be bee-conscious and do not apply when the plants are flowering as it might cause bee death! More information can be found at: <http://www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl/weektypics/6-7-10.html>

Welcome Back!

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,

Purdue University Extension Educator, Lake County

After several years on hiatus, we are bringing back the Plants and Pests Newsletter by popular demand! This newsletter will focus on timely gardening articles and upcoming programs that are of interest to you from the Extension Office. It will be mailed out approximately every 2 months. We may have more in the summer and less in the winter, but you will not have it monthly year round (unless it's that high of demand!).

If you desire to not receive this newsletter any more, please contact our office to let us know and we are sorry to see you go. If you know of others that would like to get this newsletter, let them know to contact us!! We'd love to get the word out to all interested parties.

Again, Welcome Back and Enjoy!

Fertilizing Your Lawn

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

Time is starting to come up for fertilizing the lawns. The first question always is, when can I first fertilize? Well, the general recommendation is that you wait until around Memorial Day weekend. That way the grass has time to wake up and get started. Some may think that they need to put fertilizer on really early in the spring for their green grass, but actually the opportunity was already missed. The best time to fertilize for green grass in the spring is the prior fall.

What you need to think about in the spring is actually applying your pre-emergent crabgrass preventer. April is the time to make sure to get this in the ground so that you can prevent a problem. However, this is not the time to control many other types of weeds, such as dandelions. Those again are best treated in the fall to kill their tap roots. That doesn't mean you can't spot treat to kill them, but I would leave it at a spot treatment and save up your money for a more "deadly" approach in the fall.

The other question is about Grubs and preventing them. Again, this is more of a late summer or fall application or late summer. It's not until then that they are actually active enough to do damage. This treatment should be held off until the end of July, early August.

Time for Peach Leaf Curl Control

Writer: Ward Upham, Extension Associate
Kansas State University Research and Extension

If you have ever seen emerging peach leaves that are puckered, swollen, distorted and reddish-green color, you have seen peach leaf curl. Uncontrolled, this disease can severely weaken trees because of untimely leaf drop

when leaves unfurl in the spring. Fortunately, peach leaf curl is not that difficult to control if the spray is applied early

enough. By the time you see symptoms, it is much too late.

As a matter of fact, fungicides are ineffective if applied after buds begin to swell. Recent cold temperatures should keep trees in tight bud long enough to find a window for application. Don't spray when temperatures will fall below freezing before the spray dries. Peach leaf curl can be controlled by a single fungicide application either in the fall after leaf drop or in the spring before bud swell. There are several fungicides labeled for this disease including Bordeaux, liquid lime sulfur, and chlorothalonil (Ortho Garden Disease Control, Fertilome Broad Spectrum Fungicide, GardenTech Fungicide Disease Control, Gordon's Multipurpose Fungicide, and Daconil). Thoroughly cover the entire tree during application. Note that it is much easier to achieve good spray coverage if the tree is pruned before spraying.



Peach Leaf Curl

Garden Manure Safety

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,
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While there is the movement to use more natural products, keep food safety in mind at the same time. Manures are a great way to improve the soil if used in combination with other organic inputs, but they can harbor microorganisms that will make you sick of your produce come in contact with them. The national organic standards note that if you surface apply manures, you should wait a minimum of 120 days before harvesting produce that has a chance of touching the ground. Keep in mind, water can also splash the ground to the produce if you are not careful!

With all this said, the best recommendation for applying something this spring is using compost. You might say, "It's composted in that pile over there!" This may not be the case. A true compost needs to be turned and reach temperatures near 120 degrees and have the proper mixture of carbon and nitrogen inputs. It can take a minimum of 3-6 months to mature. When it's a matter of getting sick from your fresh produce, be safe and make sure it's properly composted. Otherwise, save the manure inputs for the fall or the ornamental plants of your yard instead.

Oil Sprays for Fruit Trees

Writer: Ward Upham, Extension Associate
Kansas State University Research and Extension



There are a number of dormant sprays used on fruit to control various diseases and insects, but a dormant oil spray is designed to control scale insects. If you have a problem with scale, now is the time to start looking for an opportunity to spray.

Normally spray should be applied by

March 1, especially with peaches and nectarines. Apples are tougher, and application may be delayed up to the green tip stage. Temperatures need to be at least 40 degrees so spray has a chance to dry before freezing. If the spray does freeze before it dries, plant injury can occur. Applying the spray during the morning will help insure that it dries properly. Thorough coverage of limbs, branches and twigs is vital for good control.

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