

Caplan, Larry A.

Subject: HORT ALERT: 02-19-2018 Survey; Invasive Species; Upcoming Programs; Conservation Cost-Share; Pest Samples; Mower Recall; Fruit Pruning

2/19/2018

Dear Gardening Friends,

Welcome to the latest Hort Alert email. We have a lot to talk about today, so let's get right to it!

Hort Alert Survey

Since the Hort Alerts are one of the major ways I have for sharing gardening information with the general public (now that I'm no longer writing for the Evansville Courier and Press), I want to make sure that I'm sending out the information that you need the most, and in the format that works best for you. I also want to get an idea of how useful Hort Alerts have been for you, to see if I'm making any impact in the community.

I have created a (reasonably) short survey about Hort Alerts, which I would ask you to complete. It's a total of 20 questions, and should take you about 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Please visit the link to begin the survey:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ldBLdvNdoKAmUZ .

I greatly appreciate your time and effort!!!

Pruning Demonstration

What: Learn to prune trees, shrubs, and fruiting plants.

When: Saturday, February 24, 9 am - noon CST

Where: The Hartman Arboretum, at 5939 Spirit Trail, Evansville, IN. It is one-half mile north of State Road 66 (Diamond Ave) on Hwy. 65 (Cynthiana Road) and is near the German Township Booster Club.

Who: This program is open to everyone!

Cost: FREE!

* Evansville City Arborist Shawn Dickerson will provide a hands-on training about pruning your shade trees.

* Grant Hartman, Master Gardener and owner of Hartman Arboretum, will have a discussion on small fruits, including but not limited to, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries.

For more information about this educational program, contact Hartman Arboretum at 812-963-5418.

Hoosier Hillside Spring Tonic

Who: Open to everyone!

What: Hoosier Hillside Spring Tonic

When: Saturday, March 3, 8 am to 3:30 pm EST

Where: Orange County Community Center, 1075 Sandy Hook Road, Paoli, Indiana.

Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners will be holding their 11th Annual Spring Tonic on March 3, 2018. Registration fee is \$40, and includes the 5 educational sessions, continental breakfast, and lunch.

Speakers include Megan Cain, of Madison, Wisconsin; Will Drews, Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District; John Scott Foster, Executive Director of Friends of Hamilton County Parks; and Larry Caplan, Purdue Extension.

This program is open to the public!

You can download the full program brochure, plus the registration form, by visiting their web page: <https://extension.purdue.edu/orange/pages/article.aspx?intItemID=28152>

Pond Workshop

When: Tuesday, March 20, 9:30 am – 2 pm CST

Where: Wirth Park Community Center, State Road 64, Oakland City, Indiana. You can see a map of the site on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wirth-Park/143672148987781>

Cost: \$10, which includes lunch and handouts.

Schedule:

9:00 am: Registration

9:30: Deciding Your Pond's Location and Construction (Mike Wathen, Vanderburgh County)

10:30: Selecting Fish Species and Stocking Rates (Mike Wathen)

11:30: Lunch catered by Fazoli's

12:15: Pond Maintenance and Invasive Identification (Patrick Whitson, Aquatic Control)

1:30: Demonstration of the "Pond Daddy" app (Dan Stevens, The Cisco Company)

This program will provide 5 CCHs for Category 5 (Aquatic) Commercial Pesticide applicators.

To register, go to www.southerinpondworkshop.eventbrite.com .

For more information, contact the Vanderburgh County SWCD by Email: erin.shoup@in.nacdnet.net or by phone: 812-423-4426 x 3.

EAB University Spring Schedule

EAB, of course, stands for Emerald Ash Borer. EAB University is a cooperative effort of the US Forest Service, Michigan State, Ohio State, and Purdue University.

The following sessions are all available online webinars that you can view in the comfort of your own home (or local library). The webinars are “live” at the times below, but you can view them afterwards on your own schedule. All sessions are FREE. All times listed are Eastern Time.

- Resources for Jumpstarting Outreach on Invasive Species
 - Leigh Greenwood, The Nature Conservancy
 - Thursday, February 22, 2018, @ 11 a.m. EDT
- Recognizing and Reporting Exotic Forest Insects
 - Cliff Sadof, Purdue University, Entomologist
 - Thursday, March 1, 2018, @ 11 a.m. EDT
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Biocontrol Efforts
 - Mark Whitmore, Cornell University, Forest Entomologist
 - Thursday, March 8, 2018, @ 11 a.m. EDT
- Determining Impacts on Wildlife From Emerald Ash Borer Infestations of Black Ash Forests
 - Alexis Grinde, PhD, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Wildlife Biologist
 - Thursday, March 15, 2018, @ 11 a.m. EDT
- Wood Utilization Post-Emerald Ash Borer: An Update
 - Jessica Simons, SE Michigan Resource Conservation and Development
 - Thursday, March 22, 2018, @ 11 a.m. EDT

Bringing/Sending Samples to the Extension Office

“Something is killing my plants!” An all-too familiar cry during the growing season. In order for me to advise you on how to save your plants, I need to know what’s causing the problem. It could be caused by insects, diseases, physical injury, or management mistakes.

I’m a very visual person. I need to SEE what is going on. Trying to describe the types of spots to me, or what the insect looks like, rarely works for me. The best way for me to help you is if you send me some photographs of the problem, or what you think the cause might be. It should be moderately easy for you to attach a digital photo to an email and send it to me, especially if you’re taking pictures with a smart phone. Review the photos before you hit “send.” The pictures need to be in focus, and you need to focus on the part that’s important. Often, if you snap a photo of a twig in the yard, your camera will have focused on the ground BEHIND the twig (mine does that all the time). Send the photo to me full size, and as an attachment.

If you want to bring in a sample to my office, I need it to be usable. The following tips were provided by the Purdue Plant & Pest Diagnostic Lab:

1. Time is money: Don’t wait until the problem is widespread to send a sample. Many diseases and insects are manageable if caught early.

2. Dead plants tell no tales: Plants which are totally dead, dry or rotten are useless for accurate diagnosis. Collect declining but not completely dead ones.

3. What’s bugging you? Collect several examples of insects for ID, just in case some get damaged or if both males and females are needed. Bring live insects in a tightly sealed bottle or plastic container. DO NOT PUNCH AIR HOLES in the top...this just gives them a way to escape!

4. More is better: The main concern may be overlooked if you send only one plant, one insect or a single branch. Send plenty of material or whole plants if practical. Make sure samples are representative of what you are seeing. Digital images can help too!

5. Get to the root of the problem: Many plant problems are related to the roots and soil. Dig plants rather than pull them up to keep roots intact. Include plenty of the small roots and at least a cup of soil.

6. A place for everything: If soil gets on the leaves during shipment it can mask symptoms or even create a “disease” that wasn’t there at shipment. Keep soil around roots so they don’t dry out. Bag the roots and soil and tie at the main stem or secure roots and soil within aluminum foil. Wrap foliage in newspaper lightly then pull the bag over the rest of the plant and tie the top loosely to keep foliage from drying out. Make sure foliage isn’t wet before packaging.

7. Details are important: The more you tell the diagnostic lab about the situation the better. Include name of plant, location, percent affected, symptoms of concern, fertilizers or pesticides used recently, and other details.

8. Fresher is better: Mail or deliver samples as soon as you can. Store samples in a cooler on hot days until you can deliver or ship them. Avoid shipping samples on Fridays since most plants will start to rot after being in transit over a weekend. A next day delivery service is needed for urgent samples or those that may rot quickly in shipment.

9. Fragile, handle with care: Padded mailing envelopes may be used for samples that are not fragile, such as ears of corn, but crush proof boxes with crumpled newspaper for padding are preferred in most cases (essential for young and tender plant material). Insect vials must be padded to prevent breakage in shipment. This is not as big a deal if you are hand-delivering the sample to my office.



“Why can’t you identify it? All of the pieces are there...”

2018-2020 Vanderburgh County Soil & Water Conservation District Clean Water Indiana Grant Cost-Share Agreement

The Vanderburgh County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is promoting the 2018 Conservation Practice Cost-Share Program. This cost share program is made possible through a grant from the Clean Water Indiana Program. The program will help provide some funds for landowners to perform any of a number of conservation projects, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Conservation Buffer - \$150
- Pollinator Plot (varies by plot size)
 - Plots less than or equal to 2,500 sq. ft. - \$50
 - Plots greater than 2,500 sq. ft. and up to 0.25 acres - \$200
 - Plots greater than 0.25 acres - \$350
- Rain Garden - \$250
- Rainwater Harvesting - \$60/system
- Soil Testing - \$15/sample
- Tree Planting - \$75
- Xeriscaping - \$200

SWCD staff will provide technical assistance for the practice being implemented. SWCD staff are not obligated to provide labor towards completion of the practice.

To get a copy of the full Cost-Share program, plus the application form/agreement, please contact

Erin Shoup
Vanderburgh County SWCD
921 North Park Dr.
Evansville, IN 47710
Email: erin.shoup@in.nacdnet.net
Phone: 812-423-4426 x 3

Husqvarna Recalls Residential Zero Turn Riding Mowers Due to Fire Hazard

Name of Product:
Residential zero turn riding mowers

Hazard:
An incorrect routing of the fuel line can cause it to wear and leak, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Repair
Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled zero turn mowers and contact Husqvarna to arrange for a free inspection and repair.

Consumer Contact:
Husqvarna toll-free at 877-257-6921 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at recalls@husqvarna.com or online at www.husqvarna.com and click on "Product Recall" for more information.

Pictures available here: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Husqvarna-Recalls-Residential-Zero-Turn-Riding-Mowers-Due-to-Fire-Hazard#>

Recall Details

Units:
About 7,100

Description:
This recall involves Husqvarna® and Poulan Pro® brand residential zero turn riding mowers with a Briggs & Stratton twin cylinder engine. They were sold in orange/black and yellow/black colors. On the Husqvarna models, "Husqvarna" is printed on the side of the mowers. On the Poulan Pro models, "Poulan Pro" is printed on the front of the mower. The model number and serial number are printed on the left-hand rail frame in front of the left rear drive wheel. The following models are included in the recall.

Brand	Model Number	Model Name	Serial Number Range
Husqvarna	967638401	Z242F	070117C001001 through 110717C999999
Husqvarna	967271501	Z246	
Husqvarna	967271401	Z246	

Husqvarna 967323901 Z246i
Husqvarna 967262401 Z248F
Husqvarna 967324101 Z254
Husqvarna 967680901 Z254F
Poulan Pro 967331001 P54ZX

Incidents/Injuries:

None reported

Sold At:

Badcock & More, Lowe's and other home centers, hardware stores, and Husqvarna Equipment Dealers nationwide and on online at Badcock.com, Lowes.com and other websites from July 2017 through December 2017 for between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

Pruning Neglected Fruit Trees

Pruning is one of the most important jobs a gardener should perform on their fruit trees. Proper pruning manages size of the plant and therefore reachability of the fruit. Proper pruning creates strong limbs that will hold the fruit load without cracking. Proper pruning also allows sunlight to reach all the fruit (necessary for good color and ripening), as well as spray penetration.

Most manuals that talk about pruning fruit trees assume that you've just bought the tree, and are going to prune it correctly from year one. This article from Kansas provides a good explanation, plus some decent sketches, on how pruning should be done for most fruit trees:

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/c631.pdf> .

However, what if you just bought a property with a few neglected fruit trees? Or, you've been a little lax on your pruning over the last several years? Rather than making one pruning cut at ground level and planting a new tree, there are some options!

This article from Tennessee provides good general advice, plus illustrations, on pruning neglected fruit trees: <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP307-K.pdf> .

This article from Oregon goes one step further, and provides a year-by-year schedule of bringing apple trees back into production:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1005.pdf> .

[Hort Alert is a free service from the Purdue Extension Service of Vanderburgh County. Your name and email will never be shared with anyone else. If you wish to stop receiving Hort Alerts, just reply to this message and type "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the Subject line. Archived copies of Hort Alerts can be found here:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/Vanderburgh/Pages/article.aspx?intItemID=9300>].

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