

Purdue Extension

# Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter

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## Important Upcoming Dates:

### Empowering Women of Agriculture Workshop

Thursday, August 9, 2018

Community Event Center; Greene County Fairgrounds

### Forage Management Day

Thursday, August 9, 2018

Feldun Purdue Agriculture Center, Bedford

### Indiana State Fair

August 3-19, 2018

Indiana State Fairgrounds; Indianapolis

## Empowering Women of Agriculture Workshop

Members of the Purdue Extension – Greene County, USDA/NRCS, Greene County Farm Bureau, Plummer Creek Watershed Project, Greene County FFA Chapters and SWCD Board have partnered together to organize a workshop for all interested ladies who either work in the Ag field, have spouses that farm or work in the Ag field, or whom have fathers or other family members they assist with the family farm.

On Thursday, August 9, 2018, the first initial workshop of the *Empowering Women of Agriculture* will take place at the Greene County Community Event Center located on the Fairgrounds. The workshop will start at 8:30 AM with registration and run to 1:00 PM, with a lunch starting at noon. The cost is absolutely free!

Speakers include Dr. Paige Pratt, whom will be discussing the importance of having a plan for the future of the farm. Bobbi Hunt-Kincaid, a Sullivan County Farmer and Ag Business Owner, will be sharing her experiences on taking over the family farm. Our third speaker is Martha Miller, a certified life coach and the Manager at the Monroe County SWCD. She will be educating our participants on effective communication. The last speaker will be Jane Hardisty, whom is the former NRCS State Conservationist. Jane will be presenting on the important role women play in agriculture.

For more information, requests for special accommodations or dietary restrictions, please contact the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office. To register, call the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office at 812-659-2122, email [davis186@purdue.edu](mailto:davis186@purdue.edu) or register at <https://bit.ly/2sRbJpO>. Deadline to register is Thursday, August 2, 2018.

## Hay Chec® Forage Sampling Probe Tube Available at the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office

The Purdue Extension – Greene County Office is now home to a Hay Chec® Forage Sampling Probe Tube, which is available for clients to checkout to sample their own forage crops.

If interested in using the forage probe, simply call Sadie Davis at 812-659-2122 or email her at [davis186@purdue.edu](mailto:davis186@purdue.edu).

Sadie can also help you submit your forage samples or even soil samples if interested. Using the services of A&L Great Lake Labs in Fort Wayne, she will provide you the forms and bags, as well as ship everything for you. You will be responsible for covering the cost of the lab fees and shipping.



## Mile-a-Minute Invasive Vine Found in Indiana

Preventing the establishment of new invasive species is priority number one and the best expenditure of limited resources in an invasive species management program. Next in priority is early detection of and rapid response (EDRR) to the first report of a new invasion. Stopping invasive species from entering or, next best, at their initial point of introduction saves the incalculable costs later on associated with rapidly spreading, all-consuming invasive species populations. The verification of a report of mile-a-minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*) on a property in Monroe County, Indiana on May 14, 2018 sets a historical precedence demonstrating a growing capability of detecting and reporting new invaders. The population was very small at this spot and had apparently been sprayed by a homeowner with herbicide, not necessarily to kill the mile-a-minute, but likely to kill the companion multiflora rose.

Our hope is that this is the only instance of mile-a-minute vine in Indiana. There is a significant probability that it is not! In the coming months, a more thorough survey of this property and surrounding area will be conducted to look for more of the vine. But now Indiana stands on high alert as natural resource professionals keep a look out for more of this highly-invasive pest. However, there are too few professionals with eyes on the landscape. The more eyes trained to identify the very distinct characteristics of mile-a-minute, the higher the chance of us catching it before it explodes across the landscape, wreaking havoc and mayhem in our forests and fields, wildlife habitat and mushroom hunting and birding grounds.

All landowners, land stewards, and nature lovers are needed to be additional eyes looking for this insidious threat this summer and in coming years. Please take a moment to learn its identifying characteristics. If you think you have found it, please report it on [EDDMapS](#) (Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System) or from your smart phone on the GLEDN (Great Lakes Early Detection Network) app. If you are unsure if you are correctly identifying it, please contact a forester or other natural resource professional for confirmation or just report it in EDDMapS or the GLEDN app, along with photos, and a professional in your area will verify its identification before it actually gets posted.

### Mile-a-minute identification:

Mile-a-minute vine is a member of the buckwheat family, Polygonaceae. Although its common name exaggerates its growth potential, this annual vine can grow as much as 6 inches a day and can reach heights of more than 25 feet within the growing season. It forms very dense, tangled mats, growing over shrubs, small trees and up the sides of forest edges. The leaves are simple, alternate, light green and a nearly perfect triangle shape. The delicately narrow, green to red-tinted stems, and the petiole (leaf stem) and midrib on the underside of the leaves are armed with small, stiff, recurved barbs. Small, cup- or saucer-shaped leaf structures, called ocreae, encircle the stem at each node. Clusters of small white, rather inconspicuous, flowers emerge from the ocreae.

Flowers develop into clusters of deep, iridescent blue berry-like fruits, approximately 5 mm in diameter, each fruit containing a single black or reddish-black hard seed, called an achene. Seeds are dispersed by birds and mammals, including chipmunks, squirrels and deer, which eat the fruit. Floodwaters facilitate long distance dispersal of seed.

Source: Ron Rathfon, Purdue Regional Extension Forester SIPAC



## Use Caution with Spreading Plants

People often select plants first for their beauty and second for their functionality in the garden. Frequently, we don't know or don't consider a plant's behavior when we're selecting them. Almost by definition, a species that is an effective ground cover will have a spreading habit. But does that make the species aggressive or invasive? There can be much confusion about the meaning of the terms aggressive and invasive.

Some plants, given their optimal habitat, can become quite prolific in the garden. A plant can be considered *aggressive* if it spreads and has the potential to take over a garden area. However, some planting sites may call for an aggressive habit. A spreading plant can be considered *invasive* if it can also escape the garden setting and move into natural areas (prairies, wetlands, and so on) and displace native vegetation. Truly invasive plants have the potential to dominate natural vegetation.

Many useful plants get bad reputations for their spreading behavior when they may simply be in the wrong place or managed the wrong way. Some spreading ornamental plants have a high propensity for becoming invasive. You should always avoid using these plants in the landscape.

As you consider what to plant, it may seem that more and more plants are classified as invasive — and you would be correct. There are more invasive plants for several reasons, including an increasingly unstable climate, more gardeners who unwittingly plant invasives, greater scrutiny of invasives, and changes in species (that is, individual species have adapted to cooler or warmer environments).

To help you make better informed plant selections, we recently revised our publication *Spreading Ornamental Plants: Virtues and Vices* (Purdue Extension publication HO-295-W, formerly HLA-1-W).

Source: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist

## July Yard & Garden Calendar

### HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Watch closely houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place cut end in rooting media, such as perlite, vermiculite or peat moss soil mix. Enclose in plastic, and keep out of direct sunlight.

### YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- Apply mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- Do not plant bare-root or ball-and-burlap stock at this time of year. Container-grown plants still may be planted, but only if you can keep them well watered.
- Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- For those growers who have a good crop this year, prop up fruit tree branches that are heavy with fruit.
- Pinch off faded rose blossoms. Continue rose spray program to control insects and diseases.
- Mow grass one-half inch higher than usual during the dry, summer months to help conserve soil moisture. Do not mow when lawn is under severe drought stress.
- Don't remove clippings from the lawn unless grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.

### GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Start seeds of broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts to transplant later for a fall harvest. Harvest crops such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, beans and cucumbers frequently to encourage further production.
- Standard sweet corn is at its peak for only a day or so. The supersweet corn maintains its peak quality for a longer period. Harvest when silks begin to dry and kernels exude a milky, rather than watery or doughy, juice when punctured.
- Broccoli will form edible side shoots after the main head is removed.
- Make sure potato tubers, carrot shoulders and onion bulbs are covered with soil to prevent development of green color and off flavors. Applying a layer of mulch will help keep them covered.
- Allow blossoms on newly planted everbearing strawberry plants to develop for a fall crop.
- July is a good time to fertilize strawberries with .5 pound of actual nitrogen per 100 feet of row.

Source: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist

## Indiana wines sparkle at INDY International Wine Competition

Hartland Winery of Ashley, Indiana, was named Indiana Winery of the Year in the INDY International Wine Competition held recently at Purdue University. Holtkamp Winery was recognized as the Indiana Farm Winery of the Year, a category dedicated to wineries producing less than 50,000 gallons of wine annually. A number of other Indiana wineries also received trophies, including Rettig Hill Winery for its rosé and Two EE's Winery for its ice wine. Additionally, 11 Hoosier wineries were recognized in the competition's Best of Class.

Indiana's wine industry has been growing rapidly over the past decade, a fact reflected by the performance of Hoosier wines and wineries in this year's INDY International, said Alan Lockhart, owner of Hartland Winery.

"For the state of Indiana this is a major kudos and for me personally this is a confirmation from our peers that we're doing well, that we're part of the group of professionals striving to make Indiana a wine destination," he said.

To see a full list of this year's INDY International Best of Class, visit <https://bit.ly/2Lkzabu>. To view all 2018 trophy recipients, visit: <https://bit.ly/2y2Ax3j>.

Source: Emma Ea Ambrose; Purdue Agricultural Communications

## Indiana's State Tree is a Popular Landscape Choice

If you've ever had to work on a tree leaf collection, no doubt you included a leaf from Indiana's state tree. Also known as tulip poplar and yellow poplar, the tuliptree is actually not a poplar at all. It is a member of the magnolia family known botanically as *Liriodendron tulipifera*.

The tuliptree is native to most of the eastern half of the United States and prefers rich, moist, well-drained, loamy soil. It is found throughout Indiana, but it is more prevalent in the southern two-thirds of the state. Its unusual flowers inspired the common name. The flowers are shaped much like a tulip with greenish-yellow petals blushed with orange on the inside. Because they generally are found high in the leaf canopy, the flowers often go unnoticed until they drop off after pollination. The leaves of this tree are also quite distinct — each one has a large, V-shaped notch at the tip.

Because tuliptrees transplant easily and grow fast, they are a popular choice for in home yards. But don't be fooled by its small size in the nursery. Give a tuliptree plenty of room in your landscape plan. A tuliptree can reach as tall as 190 feet where it's allowed to thrive, but it is more likely to reach 70 feet tall as a mature landscape specimen. Tuliptree is not without its share of pests and diseases. Among the most common are leaf spots, cankers, scale insects, and aphids. In midsummer, tuliptrees in Indiana often develop black spots followed by a yellowing of the foliage thought to be related to heat and drought stress. Aphids suck plant sap from the leaves, but their damage is mostly cosmetic because they secrete a sticky honeydew that then develops a black sooty mold, which lends a dirty appearance in midsummer.

Despite all of these problems, the tuliptree continues to endure and endear, as demonstrated by its wide availability in nearly every garden-center nursery. Given appropriate water and fertilizer, the tuliptree can be a beautiful asset to your home landscape.

Source: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist





## Mental Health First Aid

More than 1 out of every 3 of Hoosiers report poor mental health. Can you recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health illnesses? Would you know how to respond if someone you knew was struggling with a mental health issue? Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help. The course is grounded in the recovery and resiliency model– the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can and do get better, and use their strengths to stay well. Conversations about mental health don't have to be awkward. Offer support confidently with Mental Health First Aid. There is hope. Will you be the one to give it? Become certified in Mental Health First Aid.

**When:** August 15, 2018, 8AM-5:30PM

**Where:** Purdue Extension Knox County, 4259 N. Purdue Rd., Vincennes, IN 47591

**Cost:** \$50, includes snacks, lunch, and participant workbook

To register visit <https://bit.ly/2ts513e>.

For more information or for questions, contact Tonya Short, Health & Human Sciences Educator at 812-882-3509 or [short43@purdue.edu](mailto:short43@purdue.edu).

## Beef Producers: It's Time to Earn your MBA!

If you haven't already, now is the time to earn your MBA (Masters of Beef Advocacy). See below for further information!

# Masters of Beef Advocacy 2.0

We have a great story to tell. Beef producers work hard every day to be good stewards of the land and their animals by providing safe and nutritious beef for America's dinner tables. We need to be passionate and vocal in telling our story.

That's what the Masters of Beef Advocacy (MBA) program is about...equipping beef producers across the country to tell *their* story in presentations to schools and church/civic groups, through local media and in the "virtual" world of the Internet.

### Earn Your MBA

The MBA program is a self-directed online training program designed to equip beef producers and industry allies with the information they need to be everyday advocates for the beef industry. MBA participants will be required to complete five courses in beef advocacy, including:

- **The Beef Community**
- **Raising Cattle on Grass**
- **Life in the Feedyard**
- **From Cattle to Beef**
- **Beef. It's What's For Dinner**



### Enroll Today!

All beef producers and others in the beef community with a genuine interest in promoting the beef industry are invited to enroll in the MBA program. You can enroll as part of a group/class or complete the program on your own schedule.

**THERE IS NO COST TO PARTICIPATE!**

To enroll, fill out an application at:  
[www.beef.org/mba](http://www.beef.org/mba)



## Unusually Long Silks in Corn

The other day, one of the patrons of Rudy's Bar and Grill walks in with an ear of corn that exhibited long, flowing locks of blonde silks tumbling down the sides of the husk leaves and asked two questions: "Why are the silks so long?" and "Do such long silks bode ill for the success of corn pollination?" Well, maybe the 2nd question was couched in more earthy terms, but you get the drift.

Both questions suggest that the guy has some experience thinking about sex in a corn field and understands that silks are the functional stigmas of the female flowers of a corn plant. Each silk connects to an individual ovule (potential kernel) and must be pollinated in order for fertilization of the ovule to occur and a kernel develop. The guy also seems to know that emerged silks are typically only 2 to 3 inches long; not 6 to 9 inches long like those on the ear he brought in.

Silks begin elongating from the ovules near the base of an ear shoot sometime around leaf stage V12 to V14, followed by silk elongation from the remaining ovules of the ear shoot, sequentially from base to tip of ear. The silks from ovules from the lower third of the cob are typically the first to emerge through the husk leaves; followed sequentially by the remaining silks over a 4 to 8 day period.

Emerged silks initially lengthen from 1 to 2 inches per day, but then slow over the next few days due to natural aging or the inhibition caused by "captured" pollen grains as they germinate and initiate pollen tubes that penetrate the silk and elongate toward the ovule. The latter inhibition of silk elongation occurs within about 12 hours of pollination, if not earlier.

If no pollen is available, silk elongation will continue but eventually slows to a stop within About 9 days after emergence, the result of which is indeed longer than expected silks. Traditionally we agronomists point to the effects of severe drought stress that often speeds up tassel maturation and pollen shed, but delays silk emergence. Hence, when silks finally emerge from the husks, pollen shed may already be finished and no pollen available for the silks.

Most of us "gray beard" agronomists were taught that full tassel emergence (growth stage VT) often occurred 2 to 3 days before the first emergence of silks (growth stage R1). In fact, the verbatim definition of the VT stage from Ritchie et al. (1993) was that "*The VT stage is initiated when the last branch of the tassel is completely visible and the silks have not yet emerged.*"

Furthermore, pollen shed often began before or just at the timing of silk emergence.

Corn field aficionados will tell you that the timing of tassel emergence / pollen shed / silk emergence has changed somewhat in some of today's hybrids. In my own demo plots at the Purdue Crop Diagnostic Training & Research Center, it is not uncommon for silks to begin emerging before the tips of the tassels are evident from the upper leaf whorl. Sometimes pollen shed begins 2 to 4 days AFTER the initial emergence of silks from the ear husks. Such early silk emergence in modern hybrids is partially due to genetic improvement for drought tolerance that decreases the risk of delayed silk emergence in the presence of drought stress. This more robust silk elongation can result in unusually early silk emergence when growing conditions are more favorable (personal communication, K. Cavanaugh, Becks Hybrids).



Relatively cool temperatures, cloudy weather, and ample soil moisture promote sustained silk elongation. Coupled with hybrids that may silk one or more days prior to pollen shed from the tassel, silk lengths can become quite impressive.

Can there be a downside to such wonderfully long, voluptuous, silky.....silks? Well, yes, kernel set near the base of the cob may fail if the initial emerged silks deteriorate enough prior to pollen shed that they become non-receptive. Kernel set near the butt end of the cob may also fail if later-emerging silks from higher up on the ear "shade" or otherwise obstruct the initial emerged silks from "capturing" pollen.

In the past week or two, I have seen a number of corn fields with noticeably lengthy silks and, often, tassels not yet shedding pollen. Because this phenomenon can result in poor kernel set, and lower grain yield, it may behoove you to check fields soon for the success of pollination and kernel set.

### Bottom Line?

While unusually long silks are, well, unusual, don't get overly pessimistic about the prospects of poor kernel set as a consequence. Time spent now walking fields during the early stages of grain fill may help provide an overview of the extent of the problem if any.

Source: R.L. (Bob) Nielsen, Purdue Professor of Agronomy, Extension Corn Specialist

For additional information, please visit our website at:  
[www.extension.purdue.edu/greene](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/greene)

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