

Southwind District



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2019 County Fair Dates

Woodson - July 13-17

Bourbon - July 13-20

Neosho - July 25-29

Allen - July 25-29

Dear Gardener,

Happy summer! I hope you are enjoying the sunnier days that we have had recently.

This newsletter is devoted to several trees issues that are currently affecting the area.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Krista Harding
District Extension Agent

Leaf Scorch on Trees



Leaf scorch is not a disease but rather a physiological problem associated with damaged roots, storm damage, limited soil area, or hot, dry winds. This year, the wet spring may have compromised root systems so that they are now struggling to provide the moisture needed by the leaves.

Moisture is lost so quickly from the leaves that roots can't absorb and transfer water fast enough to replace what is lost.

Though scorch is usually associated with droughty periods, it can appear even when the soil is moist. Scorched leaves turn brown or, in some cases, turn black from the edges and between the major veins. If severe, the leaf may drop. Leaves may be affected over the entire tree or may be affected only on one side. White pines are also prone to this condition due to the delicacy of the needles.

Though scorch can be due solely to the weather, the condition of the roots of plants can make them much more susceptible to this condition. Shallow soils such as those over hardpan or rock lead to a limited root system that may not be able to absorb all the water needed. As mentioned, trees may be more sensitive to scorch this year because of the heavy rains we received this spring. In certain cases, so much rain was received that oxygen was driven from the soil resulting in root damage. That root damage is now making it more difficult for trees to provide all the water needed for the leaves. Also, root damage due to disease, insects, poor drainage, or construction can cause reduced water uptake. To help alleviate damage due to dry soils or limited root



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systems, water once per week for recently transplanted trees or every two weeks for large trees if there is no rainfall. Mulching small trees or shrubs will help save moisture.

Bark Shedding

The sycamore trees in my back yard are shedding like crazy - not little pieces, big CHUNKS! But I'm not concerned. You see, trees naturally shed bark as they grow. The amount of bark shed varies significantly from one year to the next and is usually not noticeable. But some



trees, such as sycamore, London Plane tree and silver maple, shed bark in large patches or strips. During a year with heavy shedding, homeowners may become concerned that the tree is sick or dying. Such usually is not the case. Sycamore and London Plane tree normally show a bright green color on the branches when the bark first falls off but soon returns to normal. Maple reveals an orange color after shedding but it, too, soon returns to normal. Eastern redbud tends to shed bark on older trees revealing an orangish-brown inner bark. There is nothing wrong with the tree as long as the shedding bark simply reveals underlying bark rather than bare wood.

Twig Dieback on Oak



You may have seen twig dieback on pin and other oaks recently. This is caused by a fungal disease called *Botryosphaeria* canker. Affected trees show wilting or "flagging" of terminal growth on the ends of branches.

Dieback usually extends 4 to 6 inches down the twig with leaves bending back toward the twig before turning brown. Dead leaves remain attached to the tree. If you look closely at the twig, you should see a rather marked transition from healthy to diseased tissue. Take a knife and scrape away some of the outer bark tissue. Healthy tissue is light green.

Diseased tissue tends to be brown to black. Botryosphaeria canker differs from oak wilt in that only the tips of branches are affected. Oak wilt affects whole branches. This disease causes such minor damage that chemical control measures are unwarranted. Dead twigs on small trees may be pruned off if desired.

Bacterial Wetwood in Trees

Have you seen a grayish looking streak running down elm trees? Or maybe even a darker colored stain? More than likely, this is bacterial wetwood, also known as slime flux. It is fairly common in our area. To learn more about this disease, see: [Bacterial Wetwood](#)

Fall Gardening



Please don't think I'm nuts for already posting about starting a fall garden! I know what you are thinking.....we just now got the spring gardening going and it's tried to drown ALL summer! There are many benefits to having a fall garden and you can't wait until fall gets here to start it.

A fall garden will often produce higher quality, tastier cool-season crops as the vegetable mature during cooler, less stressful temperatures. Plant slightly deeper than you would in the spring, so the seed stays cooler and the soil around the seed stays moist longer. Plant more thickly and thin later. The plants may need to be protected from rabbits through the use of fencing.

The following is a "calendar" of what to do when.

Mid-July: Plant potatoes if you can find or have saved back seed potatoes. Do not use freshly dug potatoes as they have a built-in dormancy that will prevent growth. Also, grocery store potatoes are often treated so they don't sprout. Cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower can be started from seed at this time. Choose a protected place where the soil can be kept moist and rabbits will not bother them. This will not be where they will grow the entire season, but these crops will be transplanted about mid-August.

Late July: Seed beets, carrots and beans. Late July to Early August: Seed spinach and long-season maturing lettuce. Leaf lettuce will be seeded later.

Second Week of August: Transplant cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower to their final location.

Mid to Late August: Seed radishes and leaf lettuce.

Use light amounts of fertilizer before planting. For example, apply 1/4 cup of a low-analysis fertilizer (6-7-7) per 10 feet of row. Side dress two weeks after transplanting or four weeks after sowing seed by applying 2 tablespoons of a 16-0-0 or 1 tablespoon of a 27-3-3, 30-3-4 fertilizer, or something similar per plant. Watering must occur more frequently because the seed should not be allowed to dry out. Overhead watering

often causes the soil to crust, making it more difficult for young, tender plants to emerge. Prevent this by applying a light sprinkling of peat moss, vermiculite or compost directly over the row after seeding. Even better, use a soaker hose or drip irrigation right next to the row.

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