

Wisconsin Horticulture Update: Friday April 16, 2004

Introductions

County roll call - Racine, Madison, Monroe, Eau Claire, Jackson, Rock reporting in

Phenology

County reports

Specialist reports

Question/Answer session

Announcements

This is basically an organizational meeting today. This is the first meeting of the season and normally Brian Hudelson would be organizing the presentation but in his absence, Patti Naigi will preside. We do have a topic rotation schedule that was sent out by email. Also Brian sent out an email yesterday with quite a few attachments with other WHU program information. There is a topic schedule that starts today and goes through October. Included are topics for every week that will be the main discussion for that day, but we'll still go through the regular check-in and finding out what's going on in each county. We would like the specialists to participate as much as possible. We also have a schedule of hosts included in one of the attachments. We do have good host participation but there are a couple of days open.

Import Web Sites with Horticulture Information:

Urban Horticulture and (links) <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/>

Entomology <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/entobltn.html>

Pathology Diagnostic <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/>

Master Gardener <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

UW-Publications <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/>

Phenology <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/Phenology.html>

UW-Extension Media Collections <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/media/>

Infosource <http://www.uwex.edu/disted/infosrce/>

Phenology

The other thing we wanted to start talking about is the phenology updates <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/Phenology.html> . Cathie Mann, who organized it last year, is willing to do it again this year. She has already started recording the phenological events in the Racine and Kenosha areas. She's looking for volunteers around the state to report to her on a weekly basis, what kinds of things they are seeing. There is a phenology checklist <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/Phenology.html> that can be used to help identify what's going on. This information can then be emailed to Cathie cmann5@wi.rr.com on a weekly basis for her to report. There are pictures of

indicator plants available on <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/Phenology.html> by clicking on the 'Plant name' for people to use to help identify things.

Racine Co. – Forsythia is blooming, bulbs in bloom, leaves coming out on a lot of trees and shrubs

County Reports

Rock Co. - I'm getting several turf questions. Brown spots, brown spots, brown spots. Last year it ended up being necrotic ring spot. It probably still is.

Are you seeing any snow mold? Not that I'm aware of. So much of this is that I'm waiting for people to bring me samples. I'm trying to do it over the phone. We have a lot of turf problems in general down here in Rock County. They are sort of old school, they handle everything with lime. I'm trying to correct that. I've done a secret shopper kind of thing and I've noticed a lot of winterizer products out there that weren't there before. I think people are catching on a little bit about having that winterizer available year round.

Have you been noticing the low phosphate fertilizers in abundance in your area? Oh yes, especially in Dane County.

Are you seeing crabgrass pre-emergent herbicide separate from fertilizers? Yes.

Any brand names you want to share? I do not endorse any product names. Ace Hardware had these kinds of products available. I've been having a problem at Home Depot because there doesn't seem to be anyone around to respond to consumer questions, but Ace Hardware has been helpful. Product availability really vary from region to region and county to county.

Entomology – Phil Pelletteri

We have the insect highlights section up earlier this week on the Entomology web site

<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/entobltn.html> and

<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/entodiag.html> and talked a little bit about the Eastern tent caterpillar egg masses that are probably hatching right now. The ones that I brought in to work hatched in 2-3 days. We're going to very quickly pass the point of treating gypsy moth egg masses with soybean oil

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/X1063.pdf>.

There is lots of ant activity. We suggest that people start buying carpenter ant baits. One would assume things are going to take off. We didn't have enough cold weather down here to really change the landscape very much so with things like bean leaf beetle and the like, I have a suspicion that we'll continue to see activity from those.

Questions:

I was questioned yesterday about termites? I thought the person should just bring those questions to you, is that a problem?

No, not at all. Unfortunately you have a good pocket of termites <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/labnotes/Wltermite.pdf> down in your area, and we've been expecting activity there.

Is it still true that we haven't had any reports of emerald ash borer in the state?

The emerald ash borer http://www.ipm.msu.edu/CAT03_land/L03-21-03.htm#3 being found in the State will be the big time front-page stuff. I'm going to meet with the DNR and DATCP folks to talk about a plan of action. We've seen a reasonable amount of information in the paper. My big concern that we're going to have to address is that with verticillium and other ash declines, people are going to get all confused. The main thing we need to get them to understand is those emergence holes and that kind of thing. That's what we're really looking for. I'm wondering if we're a couple, three years away at best.

One of the things I'm concerned about it is that because of all the popular press on the emerald ash borer, is that people should be aware of it, but they do tend to panic. I've had a couple of calls from people who want to go out and apply Imidicloprid to all of their trees and shrubs. They want to take just a severe measure because it was mentioned in the paper that that would work, but they don't even have the insect.

Until it shows up in the county, I wouldn't consider treating it from that end. With a little luck, I know a few people feel it is already here, but I'm of the opinion that it isn't. With the mass annotation, it might be a very long time before it gets there. **I know there are people that are out there looking for it and there are a few who have called and said they do have it.**

Could you comment on viburnum borer a little more? Would Imidicloprid work for that? My viburnums are dead. I knew the borer had gotten to them but the ones that are still left I'm wondering if other people were reporting problems.

The viburnum borer <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/X1046.pdf> been widespread. It's been growing in the Southeast section. Unfortunately there's no systemic that works. Imidicloprid doesn't work against caterpillars. It's very much related to cultivars. We see the American and European hybush cranberries the most susceptible. I know Johnson's is dropping 2-3 viburnums because they are too high maintenance. They're still using Dursban. We've talked about promethrin. With the flight period around the middle of June, that's when the first application goes on, but the one thing that David Bayer and his work has been uncovering up in Green Bay is that these stinkers are flying well into the middle of August. Under these severe cases, one would probably talk about a second application towards the end of July in the case of both plants to give them enough protection. In the back of my mind I'm suspicious; this is somewhat of an artifact of a mild winter again only because peach tree borer is so closely related. It kind of goes hot and cold in this state depending on how open and how cold a winter it has been. We haven't had those 25-30 below temperatures in the southern part of the state to make much of a difference. This insect really has taken off and has been in consistent up rise in the last few years.

Vegetables – Helen Harrison

Some of the development of ornamental plants on campus are a lot further ahead than I see anywhere else. There are tulips showing color. There are a great portion of them still coming out of the ground. I was just in North Carolina and they've had torrential rains down that way and once we get to the Wisconsin line, we look really dry. I know we're below normal, but we're going into this year having had 2 previous drought years. I was wondering if anyone wanted to comment on that.

General Horticulture – Bob Tomesh

We're about two inches behind, according to yesterday's report. I think we need to initiate people to begin thinking about crucial drought related issues.

Transplanted trees that were put in last year are stressed with the dry winter we've had. Some water applications are essential. Also, I see in John Stier's latest bulletin on lawns that he's suggesting that any time a fertilizer application goes on to apply a water application on after. We need to make people a little more conscious of their trees and shrubs and lawns regarding maintenance. The bulletins and fact sheets are available...we as educators need to direct their attention toward the information before the problems become therapeutic.

Spring growth is advancing quite quickly and with the temperatures up the last few days, we'll see growth even more quickly. A few reminders in the fruit area, for those homeowners growing fall bearing raspberries, it's a good time to get that fertilizer application on as soon as possible. It will stimulate primal cane growth and also have those plants flowering and fruiting at an earlier stage. The same thing is true with any grape vines; a spring application of fertilizer helps not so much for this year, but also for the flower bud formation for 2005. Dormant sprays, it's a little too late for the southern half, but the northern half might still be able to do something on their fruit trees. This brings us back to the question that Bill in Monroe had, about pest management in fruit trees. I think it is very important to encourage the homeowner to make or finalize their pest management plans for the year. They have to decide if they are going to go the chemical route, organic route or do nothing. In any case, they have to be prepared because some of those applications have to begin at this time.

In vegetables, some of the cool season crops, could be in the ground. There are onions 6-8 inches tall, so that soil is warming up quite rapidly. Forsythia is in bloom so that tells us that in the lawn and crab grass applications are essential. Encourage people to hold off on the fertilization until Memorial Day.

In flowers garden, I have a neighbor who is setting out their transplants, but they have their own greenhouse and can more easily weather loses due to frost. Encourage people to clean up their perennial beds. I see mums up 2-4 inches already. Some summer and fall flowering perennials can still be divided. If they choose to do so, and once those perennials are up more than 4-6 inches, it's difficult and they become stressed. Something many people haven't done is the asexual propagation [Home Propagation Techniques (NCR274)] of some plants. You can take cuttings of a 4-6 shoot and treat it as we would an herbaceous houseplant propagation approach. The cuttings will root quite easily. This is true for native plants that might be in some of the prairie areas.

In trees and shrubs, there are plenty of bare root selections in the nurseries. It's easy to work with these plants, but don't let the roots dry out. It's something that people can be doing if they are going to be introducing trees to their landscape.

Comments:

There is a new hydrangea called 'Endless Summer' that is a blue macrophylla that is cold hardy and blooms on new wood versus old wood.

It would be great if we had a link between our website and UW-Publications. The link we have goes to infosource only.

UW-Extension Publications <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/> does not link to the Urban Hort site <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/> for our x-file publications.

General Questions:

Is there a fact sheet for treating flowering crabs for scab?

There is a great Fact Sheet on that on the Wisconsin Horticulture website. www.wihort.uwex.edu and click on the garden fact sheet and scroll down, there is sheet on treating apple scab. There is a fact sheet on disease resistant crabs. <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/X1012.pdf>

Announcements:

On April 22, we'll be having Shrubs for Urban Spaces at the Rotary Gardens.

The Racine/Kenosha Master Gardener Association is hosting the WI Master Gardener Annual Conference on April 23rd. There are more than 400 people registered for the conference. <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

The next Update will be hosted by Lisa Johnson in Dane County.

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For suggestions or responses, please refer them to:
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