ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) where we are committed to providing you research-based information. The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide readers information about critical crop production and pest management information for field crops grown in Alabama. This newsletter promotes sustainable agriculture, i.e., successful farming without depleting natural resources so that future generations can have productive land for food production. Currently, there are over 1,200 subscribers (as of June 2013) and many commercial websites that cross-post this newsletter online resulting in a wider readership. Readers can also download or view the newsletter at ACES Store (https://store.aces.edu/ListItems.aspx?CategoryID=180). There is a multi-institutional editorial board that works swiftly each week to electronically deliver the newsletter every FRIDAY during the summer months (typically from May to September). Research and Extension personnel from all educational institution in Alabama can submit crop production and protection articles of high relevance for immediate release to the audience; authors should pay attention to the guidelines for format and submission deadlines (Wednesdays) on the last page of this newsletter. Readers from States beyond Alabama should check with their university Extension before using any recommendation. To subscribe, please email a short request to bugdoctor@auburn.edu. Once your name is added to the list, you will get a welcome message from the IPM COMM Listserv.

Editorial Board:
Chief Editor: Ayanava Majumdar “Dr. A” – Extension Entomologist & State Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Coordinator, Auburn Univ.
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Rudy Pacumbaba—Ext. Specialist, Alabama A&M Univ.
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Author guidelines are provided on the last page of this newsletter. Articles may be delayed for publication if they are not in the recommended format.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE: https://store.aces.edu/ListItems.aspx?CategoryID=180

A Comprehensive Pest Management Newsletter for Farmers across Alabama!

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AG TRAINING EVENTS (FLYERS/FORMS INCL.)
Row crop & stored grain workshops (4 events)
Specialty crops (fruits/vegetable—10 events listed)
Commercial horticultural retailer (Fall training - 3 events)
ALABAMA PEANUT & VEGETABLE IPM PROGRAMS
The Agronomy & Commercial Horticulture Extension Teams are constantly working to provi-
de you updated information for profitable farming. Now you can get pest information
quickly and interact with the Extension Team using social media apps on your smartphone.

PROJECT WEBSITES
Peanut IPM: www.aces.edu/go/88
Vegetable IPM: www.aces.edu/go/87

FACEBOOK CHANNELS TO ‘LIKE’:
Peanut producers: ‘ALABAMA PEANUT IPM PROGRAM’
Vegetable producers & gardeners: ‘ALABAMA VEGETABLE IPM’

Make sure you sign-up for Extension IPM workshops and field days close to you for hands-
on crop production and pest management training.

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER HELPLINE
When you want to know how to get that colorful annual bed installed and growing, to
whom do you turn for advice? Are you at a loss for solutions to disease and insect prob-
lems? If you’ve got gardening questions, we’ve got answers! Call the Master Gardener
Helpline. Trained volunteers are ready, willing, and waiting to help!

There are 15 Helpline locations throughout the state of Alabama and calls are answered at
least one location year-round. In fact, as you read this, Master Gardeners are manning the
phone lines in the Southwest and North Central regions of the state. Give ‘em a call!
They’d love to help you with all your gardening needs.

Dial 1-877-252-GROW (4769) and select your location from the short menu to receive
the most accurate, local information. Below is a list of the menu options so you will be prepared when you call. If you do not
hear your location option in the menu, please select “3” and a Master Gardener will assist you.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Included area</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>from the Gulf Coast to Grove Hill and Greenville</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Central and East</td>
<td>from Anniston to Phenix City; metro Montgomery</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>North Central/West</td>
<td>from Clanton to Birmingham; Hamilton &amp; Carrollton</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>from Decatur/Huntsville to the Shoals &amp; Russellville</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>from Pell City &amp; Gadsden to Cullman and Scottsboro</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>area of Andalusia, Dothan, Troy, &amp; Eufaula</td>
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AFVGA WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE FOR SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCERS
The Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association (AFVGA, www.afvga.aces.edu) now has a dy-
namic Facebook page! Please login to Facebook and then enter ‘Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers
Association’ in the search tool. Once on the page, click on the LIKE button.

Some benefits of joining the AFVGA Facebook page include rapid access to potentially hundreds of
crop producers and gardeners across the state, updates regarding upcoming educational workshops with
partnering institutions, and direct communication with AFVGA Board members. For more information about the AFVGA,
sponsorship of events and memberships, please contact Jackie Cooper, Exec. Sec., AFVGA.
(jjcoop61@bellsouth.net).

ALABAMA SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WEBSITE
Organic producers and transitioning farmers can bookmark this website to stay informed of SARE pro-
grams, especially grants and special publications. You can also subscribe to the ALABAMA VEGETABLE
IPM channel on FACEBOOK.

Visit http://www.southernsare.org/SARE-in-Your-State/Alabama
HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION BUDGET RESOURCES

Are you just getting started growing in high tunnels? 
“Which crops will be most profitable?” is a common question from newer producers. There is no easy answer, because profits depend on many factors including your management skills, production system, and yields. Every farm situation is different.

Enterprise budgets help producers estimate the costs and returns of growing crops. These budgets can be used to help you determine what records you should keep, and how you can calculate your breakeven price and whether you are making or losing money with a particular enterprise.

Below are links to several high tunnel enterprise budgeting tools and articles.

High Tunnel Marketing & Economics, Minnesota High Tunnel Production manual for Commercial Growers (University of Minnesota) 
http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/components/M1218-12.pdf

Sample High Tunnel Budgets and Spreadsheets (Cornell) 
Includes budgets for tomato, sweetpotato, winter greens (heated, unheated tunnels), hanging basket petunias and cherry tomatoes, spinach (unheated tunnel), green pepper and colored peppers. 
http://www.hort.cornell.edu/hightunnel/business/budget.htm

High Tunnels: Using low cost technology to increase yields, improve quality, and extend the season. (University of Vermont) 
Includes production budgets/case studies for greens, spinach, sweet cherries, cockscomb, and tomato. 
http://www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture/hightunnels.html

High Tunnel Raspberries & Blackberries (Cornell University) – includes production budgets for high tunnel brambles. 

High Tunnel Tomatoes (University of Kentucky) 
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CDBREC/introsheets/hightunneltomatoes.pdf

High Tunnel Tomato Production Manual (University of Missouri Extension) 
http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/manuals/m00170.pdf

Removing barriers to increase high tunnel production of horticultural commodities in NY (Cornell University) Includes enterprise budgets for tomato, cuke, cut flower (lisianthus, sunflower) and fall raspberry. 
http://www.hort.cornell.edu/hightunnel/about/research/economics/removing_barriers_uva_cheng.pdf

Where’s the money in high tunnel tomatoes? (Cornell University Cooperative Extension) 
http://www.hort.cornell.edu/hightunnel/business/resources/where_is_the_money_shaw.pdf

Joe Kemble
Ext. Specialist/Professor
CUCURBIT YELLOW VINE DECLINE (CYVD) DETECTED ON SQUASH

“Cucurbit yellow vine decline (CYVD) was detected in squash from a sample collected from commercial field in Tallapoosa County in early June. This would be the first report of the disease in Alabama in 2013. The disease, caused by the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*, is spread by squash bugs. We first detected CYVD in Alabama in 2010 on samples of squash and watermelon however the disease was not reported in the State in the following years. Squash, melons and pumpkin are all susceptible to CYVD whereas cucumbers are considered resistant. In mixed plantings the disease will most likely appear on squash and pumpkin before melons due to squash bug feeding preferences.

Symptoms of CYVD include stunting, yellowing, and decline in plant vigor typically one to two weeks prior to harvest. In addition to yellowing leaves, the phloem in the plant stems turns brown. Symptoms caused by CYVD are very similar to those of bacterial wilt, which is a disease transmitted by cucumber beetles. Although bacterial wilt has similar symptoms, the progression of the disease is much slower than cucurbit yellow vine decline. With cucurbit yellow vine decline, the plants rapidly turn yellow may appear to wilt almost overnight.

The bacterium is able to survive the winter in the squash bugs and infect plants the following year. Control of the disease relies on managing squash bugs early in the season. Below is A PDF of a presentation I gave on CYVD and how to tell the disease apart from other wilt diseases of Cucurbits common in Alabama. https://sites.aces.edu/group/crops/peanut/IPM%20Web%20Conference/sikora2011.pdf

Kassie Conner and Edward Sikora
Ext. Plant Pathologists

BACTERIAL CANKER ON TOMATO

There have been unconfirmed reports of Bacterial canker in tomato fields in central and north Alabama in recent weeks (picture on right). Symptoms of bacterial wilt include wilting, yellowing and eventual death of infected plants. If the stem of an infected plant is cut open longitudinally, a yellow to reddish brown discoloration may be observed in the vascular tissue. In later stages, cankers may develop on the stem, petioles and the underside of the foliage. Superficial foliar infections cause necrosis of the foliage, usually from the leaf margins inward. The necrosis can advance until the entire leaf and petiole dies. Early infection of the fruit can cause bird’s-eye spots. Bird’s-eye spots are characteristically white, necrotic lesions about 1/8 inch in diameter that soon develop dark centers surrounded by a white halo.

The bacterium survives from season to season in infested crop debris, on wooden stakes and other equipment, and in other solanaceous hosts. The pathogen is commonly introduced into a field on infected transplants or seed. Spread within the field occurs through wounds during irrigation or by splashing rain. Weeks may pass between the time of infection and the development of symptoms.

Bacterial canker is difficult to control once it appears in a field. Immediately after detecting the disease destroy infected plants to reduce the amount of disease inoculum in the field. Cooper products may reduce in-field spread of the disease. Avoid field work when plants are wet and work areas of known infestation last to cut down on spread of the pathogen. At the end of the season bury plant debris and control solanaceous weeds to reduce the overwintering potential of the disease. Next spring on plant certified disease-free material in fields that have been out of tomatoes for at least 2 years (preferably longer).

Edward Sikora
Ext. Plant Pathologist
DOWNY MILDEW DETECTED ON CUCUMBER IN MACON COUNTY

Downy mildew was detected on cucumbers in the Cucurbit downy mildew sentinel plot at the E.V. Smith Research and Extension Center on July 2nd. This is the first report of downy mildew in central Alabama. The disease was detected on cucumber in Baldwin and Escambia counties in the later part of June. The warm, wet weather in recent weeks has made conditions extremely favorable for development of downy mildew. Growers who avoid a protective fungicide spray program under these conditions and wait to until this disease appears in the field could suffer significant yield losses. More information on the distribution of downy mildew in Alabama and U.S. can be viewed at the “Cucurbit Downy Mildew Forecast homepage” at http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/

Downy mildew infected leaves first show light yellow spots that are angular and limited by the small veins of the leaf. Eventually these areas merge and turn tan to brown. Severe infections results in defoliation, stunted plants, poor fruit development, sunscald of fruit, and reduced marketable yields.

Edward Sikora
Ext. Plant Pathologist

DOWNY MILDEW DETECTED ON CUCUMBER IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Downy mildew was detected on cucumbers in the Cucurbit downy mildew sentinel plot at the Brewton Agricultural Research Unit on June 21. This is the first report of downy mildew in Alabama this year. Dr. Austin Hagan, Extension Plant Pathologist, observed symptoms of the disease in the field and Dr. Kassie Conner confirmed the pathogen on samples brought back to the Auburn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory.

The sentinel plot at Brewton is one of 10 locations where we are monitoring regularly for the disease. The current outbreak suggests the disease may becoming a significant problem this summer due to the favorable environmental conditions that we have experienced. The warm, wet weather in recent weeks has made conditions extremely favorable for development of water mold-type fungi such as downy mildew. Growers who avoid a protective fungicide spray program under these conditions and wait to until this disease appears in the field could suffer significant yield losses.

A fungicide spray program that consists of a systemic-type fungicide such as Ranman (2.75 oz/Acre) plus a protectant fungicide such as Bravo (1.5 pts/Acre) alternated weekly with a Bravo application would be most effective if initiated prior to disease development. Presidio (4 oz/Acre) and Previcur Flex are other product-alternatives that should also be tank-mixed with a protect fungicide to prevent the development of fungicide-resistant strains of the pathogen.

Home gardens should consider applying a protectant-type fungicide with the active ingredient chlorothalonil such as Daconil 2787. A list of fungicides that can reduce damage from downy mildew on Cucurbits can be found in the Alabama Pest Management Handbook – Volume 2.

More information on the distribution of downy mildew in Alabama and U.S. can be viewed at the “Cucurbit Downy Mildew Forecast homepage” at http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/

Downy mildew is most common on cucumber and cantaloupe but can also be damaging to pumpkins and other Cucurbits. Infected leaves first show light yellow spots that are angular and limited by the small veins of the leaf. Eventually these areas merge and turn tan to brown. Infected leaves die but remain erect while the leaf blades curl inward. Severe infections results in defoliation, stunted plants, poor fruit development, sunscald of fruit, and reduced marketable yields.

Edward Sikora, Ext. Plant Pathologist
FALL ARMYWORM UPDATE IN PASTURES
Damaging populations of armyworms have now been found in Sumter and Choctaw. The map has been updated at: http://tinyurl.com/alabama-armyworm

Information about fall armyworms can be found at this resource board: http://bit.ly/18wvBPZ.

Individual links to various bits of fall armyworm information:

We have updated the fall armyworm watch map at: http://tinyurl.com/alabama-armyworm

The latest list of insecticides for fall armyworm can be found at: http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/I/IPM-0028/IPM-0028.pdf

Information about fall armyworm biology is at: https://store.aces.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13506

Instructions on how to use a sweep net to look for fall armyworm: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71wdi8P33bQ

Insect sweep nets can be purchased at various farm and forestry supply stores.

As always, please let me know if you find fall armyworms in your Alabama forage grasses: flandkl@auburn.edu

Kathy Flanders
Ext. Entomologist

HESSIAN FLY VARIETY TEST RESULTS
Results from two Hessian fly variety tests, Prattville in central AL and Fairhope in southwest Alabama posted at http://www.aces.edu/agriculture/insects-diseases-weeds-pests/HessianFly/ResistantVarieties.php. Varieties most resistant to the tough Alabama biotypes were the Pioneer variety 26R41, Terral TV 8861, Terral TV 8848, and USG 3120.

This is part of the web site (www.aces.edu/HessianFly) that supports the Hessian fly fact sheet (https://store.aces.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13507).

Kathy Flanders
Ext. Entomologist
SOYBEAN VEIN NECROSIS VIRUS DETECTED ON SOYBEAN IN DEKALB COUNTY

Soybean vein necrosis virus (SVNV) was detected in a soybean sentinel plot at the Sand Mountain Research and Extension Center in Crossville in DeKalb County last week. This is the first report of the disease in Alabama this year. SVNV was reported in the state for the first time ever in Limestone County in September of 2012.

SVNV induces characteristic patches of brown necrotic tissue along major veins of infected leaves, resulting in a scorched appearance to severely affected susceptible cultivars. The virus is related to a group of thrips-transmitted viruses called tospoviruses. The most common vector or carrier of SVNV are thrips. At this time it is unclear which species of thrips is the main vector of SVNV in Alabama. Viruses in this group can infect the thrips vector and be transmitted for the lifespan of the insect.

We will be conducting a survey for the pathogen focusing initially on soybean fields in North Alabama. We will also scout soybean fields in other regions of the state for plants expressing symptoms of SVNV to determine the distribution of the virus in the state.

Edward Sikora and Kassie Conner
Ext. Plant Pathologists

TARGET SPOT IN COTTON

Target spot has been found in cotton in field trials located at the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center and the Plant Breeding Unit. Charlie Burmester has also collected target spot from Tennessee Valley Cotton. Cotton is now reaching and is in many cases past first bloom, which is the recommended start date for fungicide treatments. Advise grower to scout their cotton for leaf spot diseases and begin applications when symptoms appear. Good images of target spot can be found in PP-728 ‘Leaf Spot Diseases in Cotton’ [https://sites.aces.edu/group/timelyinfo/Documents/2013LeafSpotDiseasesofCottonTI.rev2.pdf]. The second application should follow two weeks after the first. If you refer to PP-735 ‘Comparison of registered and candidate fungicides for the control of target spot in cotton’ [https://sites.aces.edu/group/timelyinfo/Documents/2013%20Cotton%20TS%20Fungicide%20TI.pdf], none of the available fungicide are particularly effective in controlling target spot. However, the 9 fl oz/A rate of Headline SC has given significant yield gains above those obtained with the non-treated control in past Alabama and Georgia field trials. The triazole fungicide metconazole in Twinline as well as generic tebuconazole fungicides just don’t seem to help control this disease.

Other leaf spot diseases showing up in cotton are Ascochyta leaf spot and Myrothecium leaf spot. If you know what to look for, the latter disease can be diagnosed with a naked eye. For best results use a good hand lens or low power binocular microscope. If you have samples that need to be double checked, send them in to the lab. Do not seal leaves in a plastic bag with or w/o a wet paper towel as the leaf will disintegrate. Wrap the leaves in a dry paper towel and then ship in an open plastic bag or paper shipping envelope.

Austin Hagan
Ext. Plant Pathologist/Professor
STAY ALERT FOR THE INVASION OF LEAFFOOTED BUGS/STINK BUGS ON YOUR VEGGIES

If you have Peredovik sunflower trap crops that you may have received during an Extension event or you have okra/eggplants in large numbers, then take note of the leaffooted bug and brown stink bug invasion that has started after the recent rains.

The picture on top left shows several adults of the leaffooted bugs (*Leptoglossus phyllopus*) that are commonly found in trap crops around this time of year. These insects will stay away from the tomato main crop if you have a wide swath of the Peredovik sunflower and NK300 sorghum planted on your farm or garden. These insects have a very wide host range and are extremely mobile. Leaffooted bugs will keep gathering in large numbers on the sunflower (about two peaks in activity) and then migrate to the sorghum heads. Leaffooted bugs are about half inch long with leaf-like expansions on the hind legs. Brown stink bug is shown in the picture on top right. Both insects are devastating to many fruiting vegetables—so watch their activity and take timely action.

Another insect that you may find in the sunflower trap crop is the large leaffooted bug - *Acanthocephala femorata*. This is a very large insect and I have never seen feeding in large groups, unlike the *Leptoglossus*. *Acanthocephala* has dark body and reddish antennae; males have several spines on the hind legs. Check out more pictures on the ALABAMA VEGETABLE IPM page on FACEBOOK and use the online guide to identify the insect pest correctly. If you insect control issues in organic or conventional farming systems, give us a call immediately.

Get in touch with a Commercial Horticulture or Home Grounds Regional Extension Agent at your local Extension office.

Numerous insect control IPM guides are available on ACES Store. Look at the past issues of the IPM newsletter for control recommendations or links to IPM publications. Visit [https://store.aces.edu/](https://store.aces.edu/) for more information. Attend any of the Extension field events to learn about conventional or organic vegetable production and pest management systems.

Ayanava Majumdar  
Ext. Entomologist
FRUIT CROPS RESEARCH UPDATE

With the cooler and wetter season conditions and lower than usual solar radiation fruit crops development was delayed across the state. The harvest of the research plots occurred about a week later than typical. We were excited to observe the first commercial crop of ten recently released rabbiteye blueberry cultivars and advanced selection introduced from the University of Georgia blueberry breeding program in 2011 and planted at the North Alabama Horticulture Research Center near Cullman. This newly established variety trial includes two early ripening, productive, large size, and high fruit quality blueberry cultivars named ‘Titan’ and ‘Vernon’. ‘Titan’ is reported to produce blueberries up to four times the size of average berries and did produce the largest berries in our plots.

Nine Asian pear cultivars and two European pear cultivars were planted at the Chilton Research and Extension Center near Clanton in the spring of 2010 to field-test currently available fire blight tolerant Asian pear cultivars for their adaptation to Alabama conditions. Of particular interest is their potential for growers focused on producing sustainable fruit crops for local and regional markets. We are delighted to observe a good fruit set (Figure 1) for most of the cultivars and will continue to evaluate the final crop load and fruit quality through the season.

The U.C. - Davis developed PD resistant *V. vinifera* wine grape selections are growing well and are loaded with fruit that has recently started to mature. The beginning of grape maturity is recognized by the berries staring to change their color from green to black (for the black-colored cultivars), or to yellow-green (for the white-colored cultivars) and is known as grape veraison. The veraison period usually takes about 40 to 50 days for most of the grape cultivars and is the best indication it is time to turn off the supplemental irrigation in your vineyard in order to allow an optimal sugar accumulation that will result in a high fruit quality at harvest.

Thirteen banana cultivars derived from tissue culture were planted at the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center in Fairhope, AL this spring to determine the feasibility of producing banana fruit in the Coastal region. The list of cultivars under test include: ‘Gold Finger’, ‘Saba’, ‘Dwarf Cavendish’, ‘Pisang Ceylon’, ‘Double, Dwarf Green’, ‘Dwarf Red’, ‘Raja Puri’, ‘Grand Naine’, ‘Cardaba’, ‘Viente Cohol’, ‘Sweet Heart’, and ‘Ice Cream’. Plants are developing well and data on vegetative growth and fruit quality are being collected.

Dr. Elina Coneva
Ext. Fruit Crops Specialist

Figure 1. 'Kosiu' Asian pear crop load, Chilton Research and Extension Center, AL, July 2013.
VEGETABLE INSECT GUIDE ON FACEBOOK

If you are in need of a quick selection of insect pest and crop injury photos, then subscribe to the ALABAMA VEGETABLE IPM page on Facebook and scroll through photo albums online via computer or mobile devices. Also included are photos of some recent Extension events and vegetable producers who are using IPM techniques to increase their crop yield and profit. You can also participate in the IPM CONTEST and win surprise gifts.

If you would like to ask a question, then use the message feature for fast interaction. LIKE us today!

Ayanava Majumdar
Ext. Entomologist

BACTERIAL SPOT ON TOMATO AND PEPPER

Bacterial spot has been identified on several tomato and pepper samples submitted to the Auburn Plant Diagnostic Lab in recent weeks. Symptoms can be found on all aboveground plant parts. On leaves and stems, the spots are generally brown, small (rarely larger than 3 mm), angular, and water-soaked. Blighting of the foliage occurs with the coalescing of lesions. On leaflets, bacterial spot can easily be confused with early blight or target spot. Bacterial spot lesions do not have concentric zones, as do target spot and early blight lesions. Also, a prominent halo surrounding lesions is present with target spot and early blight but not with bacterial leaf spot lesions. Fruit lesions are usually brown, scablike, and slightly raised.

Seed is the most important medium for the survival and dissemination of the bacterium. It is also able to survive on tomato volunteers and diseased plant debris (up to one year). Disease development is favored by warm temperatures and high moisture. The pathogen is spread by mechanical means or splashing rain and penetrates through wounds or natural openings.

Bacterial spot is very difficult to control once it is introduced into an area. Control begins with the use of certified pathogen-free seed and disease-free transplants. The bacterium does not survive well once host material has decayed, so crop rotation is recommended for at least one year. Avoid cull piles near tomato growing areas and eliminate any potential for volunteers. Copper products may reduce spread of the pathogen if applications begin at the first sign of disease.

Kassie Conner and Edward Sikora
Ext. Plant Pathology
AG TRAINING EVENTS

For further information about the events listed below, please check the subsequent pages. Please call the nearest county Extension Office and talk to a Regional Extension Agent. Visit www.alabamacrops.com for more row crop field events around the state.

Row Crops & Stored Grains Events
August 19: eXtension Webinar on Fire Ant Management (details and links included)
September 10, 2013: All Crops Field Day, Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center, Fairhope. Starting at 3 pm. RSVP 251-928-2740.

Specialty Crops Events (Fruits/Vegetables)
July 25, 2013: Vegetable Production Field Day, Montgomery, AL (agenda included)
July 30, 2013: Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course, Cullman, AL (agenda included)
August 1, 2013: Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course, Troy, AL (agenda included)
August 3, 2013: Farm, Home, and Wildlife Expo, Clanton, AL (flyer included)
August 2-4, 2013: Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference, Kissimmee, FL (website included; for details visit http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/agenda.html)
August 8, 2013: Vegetable Production Field Day, Thomaston, AL (agenda coming soon)
August 17, 2013: Ethnic Vegetable Production Field Day, Hazelgreen, AL (flyer included)
August 29, 2013: Vegetable Production Field Day, Verbena, AL (flyer included)
September 28: Ag Discovery Adventure, E.V. Smith Research Center, Shorter, AL (details at http://www.aaes.auburn.edu/agdiscoveryday/)
November 13-15, 2013: Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference, Choctaw, MS (details at http://www.msfruitandveg.com/)

Commercial Horticultural Retailer Training Program, FALL 2013
Detailed agenda will be posted at http://www.aces.edu/anr/chr/
October 8, 2013: Montgomery, AL
November 7, 2013: AGITC, Birmingham, AL
December 5, 2013: Cullman, AL

2014 Events
February 7 & 8, 2014: AFVGA Annual Conference at Auburn, AL (www.afvga.aces.edu)
REGIONAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION MEETING IN MONTGOMERY

On July 25th there will be a vegetable production meeting at the Montgomery County Extension Office. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will end around 12:00 noon. This meeting is hosted by the Montgomery County Extension Office but you do not have to be from Montgomery County to attend.

The topics to be discussed at this meeting include calculating fertilizer needed using a soil test report, high tunnel production, vegetable irrigation, fall crop production, insect monitoring using pheromone traps, insecticide update, and alternative pest control.

If you would like to attend this meeting please contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at 334-270-4133. There is a registration fee of $5.00 per person to attend the meeting.

The Montgomery County Extension office is located at the Eastmont Plaza Shopping Center on the Atlanta Highway. The address is 5340 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, Alabama 36109. If you have any questions about this meeting contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at 334-270-4133 or Chip East at 256-846-0314.

--------------------------------------------

Please mail this registration form and fees to the following address:
Montgomery County Extension Office
5340 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, Al. 36109

Name___________________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________
Phone Number__________________________ e-mail____________________________
How many attending_________ Amount enclosed ($5.00 per person)___________
POLLINATOR CONSERVATION PLANNING SHORT COURSES

**Cullman Alabama**
July 30, 2013
9:00 am to 4:00 pm CDT

**Troy, Alabama**
August 1, 2013
9:00 am to 4:00 pm CDT

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the USDA Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are pleased to announce two upcoming Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Courses in Alabama.

These full day trainings will provide you with the latest science-based approaches to reversing the trend of pollinator declines, and will equip you with the recipes necessary to protect and manage habitat for these vital insects.

**SHORT COURSE DETAILS:**

Cost:
Thanks to support from Southern SARE, we are able to offer 15 scholarships to each course on a first-come first-served basis. Registration is $45 per person thereafter.

Lunch is not included. Please plan on bringing a sack lunch with you to the course.
FARM, HOME AND WILDLIFE EXPO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2013
12 NOON UNTIL 5:00 P.M.
126 CO. RD. 756
CLANTON, ALABAMA

Peach, Apple, Fig, Watermelon sampling, Cultural Practices of Blackberry, Satsuma, Kiwifruit & Grapes, see gun dogs, cooking demos, hunter safety, sawmilling and an FFA goat show. This is only a sample of the topics that will be covered during the afternoon!!!

I65 South to Exit 219. Right turn. Go .2 miles to County Rd. 29. It will turn to your left directly across from Smoky Hollow Restaurant. Go 4.5 miles. The center will be on your left.
I65 North to Exit 219. Left turn back across interstate. Then follow same directions.

Chilton Research & Extension Center – 205-646-3610
Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises

CONFERENCE
August 2-4, 2013
Kissimmee, Florida

Informing and Inspiring Agricultural Innovators
http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html

Sessions include:
- Specialty Crops and Production (Blackberry, Tropical Root Crop, etc.)
- Organic and Sustainable Farming (Seed Production and Saving, Farmscaping for Beneficial Insects, Grafting Transplants, etc.)
- Greenhouse and Hydroponics (Hydroponic Trends, Renewable Energy, etc.)
- Livestock Systems (New Poultry Roles, Goat Operation, Grazing Resources, etc.)
- The Business of Farming (Marketing, Agribusiness Management, etc.)
- Technology for Innovation (Internet, Social Media, etc.)
- Tours (Livestock, Fruit and Vegetable)
- And Much More! (Beepkeeping, Permaculture, Irrigation Management, Aquaponics, etc.)

Additional Highlights:
- Friday evening trade show opening and reception
- Trade show packed with suppliers and resources
- Keynote address
- Innovative Farmer Awards
- Livestock arena with live animal exhibits
- Educational posters
- Saturday evening networking social
- Delicious locally-grown food

Register Today!
(Early bird registration ends July 12th)
Visit the website for details
http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html

Sponsored by

Hosted by

UF University of Florida IFAS Extension
ETHNIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FIELD DAY

Field Day
(Presented by Alabama A&M, Indigo Market, Inc., Crotovina, & ACES)

When: 8:30 – 12:15 Saturday, Aug. 17, 2013
Where: WTARS, AAMU, Hazelgreen, AL 35750

Amazing Opportunity to Learn about...
New Super Special Ethnic Vegetable Crops in ALABAMA!

Cooking demonstration
How to Grow and Cook

Wanna try something new in your neighborhood? Gain knowledge on Fantastic Alternate choice of Indian, Hispanic, and Asian Vegetable Crops! Great for Niche Market Growers / Small Farmers.

Got ideas...Share! Got questions...Ask!
Learn & have fun... Enjoy!

For information, visit: http://www.aces.edu/urban/AEFSN

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Eddie Wheeler: wheeled@aces.edu
Robert Spencer: nds0002@aces.edu

This event is sponsored by a grant from Alabama Dept. of Agriculture and Industry.
A webinar set for Monday, Aug. 19 will discuss how to keep fire ants from hitchhiking on hay to areas that do not have fire ants. Dr. Kelly Loftin, an entomologist from the University of Arkansas, will host the free webinar set for 6 p.m. Central time.

Loftin says that mass movement of hay into drought stricken areas can have unintended consequences. Fire ant colonies in the hay bales can travel long distances with the hay, allowing fire ants to become established in new areas.

“A fire ant quarantine exists to slow the spread of fire ants,” says Loftin. “Hay producers, trucking companies and hay recipients, especially those who live outside the quarantine area, all need to understand the rules and regulations.”

Dr. Charles Brown, national policy manager with the United States Department of Agriculture, will discuss current regulations involved with moving hay out of the fire ant quarantine area and hay storage protocols that producers can follow to minimize the chances that fire ants get into the hay.

The webinar will also address what a producer should do upon receiving a load of infested hay.

Loftin explains that this webinar is for hay producers, hay recipients, and Cooperative Extension agents who need answers they can use.

“We want to give people sound, research-based solutions,” he says. “This webinar allows us to bring in experts from across the nation. Producers will be able to ask specific questions and get answers to they need.”

More information can be found at the Shipping Hay Outside the Fire Ant Quarantine Area event page, including how to connect to the webinar. On Aug. 19, participants can use this link to connect to the webinar.

The webinar is sponsored by eXtension and the Imported Fire Ant eXtension Community of Practice.

Maggie Lawrence
Ext. Communication Specialist
Vegetable Production and Insect Control Demonstration

Hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Thursday, August 29, 2013
Walter Postell’s Farm in Autauga County
3151 Autauga County Road 57, Verbena
From Prattville: Travel North on Autauga County Road 57
From the Verbena Exit at I-65: travel South on Chilton 59, Turn left onto Chilton county road 57
South. Chilton 57 becomes Autauga 57 when you cross the county line. The field is behind Postell’s Convenience Store close to the Autauga/Chilton County Line.

7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.

Participants will learn about vegetable varieties, water, soil, and nutrient management systems. Insect control demonstration will introduce participants to the concepts of trap cropping and mechanical barriers as alternative pest management strategies for small farms. Insect control using conventional insecticides and organic methods will also be discussed along with plenty of useful publications.

To sign-up or for more information, contact the Autauga County Extension office at 334-361-7273. There is NO Cost to attend, but you must let us know you will attend by contacting the Autauga County Extension Office by Tuesday, August 27. Join us and enjoy a light breakfast while you learn.
SOUTHERN SAWG CONFERENCE

Practical Tools & Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms
JANUARY 15-18 • MOBILE, AL

FOR SERIOUS ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE FARMERS

This regional conference is a must-attend event for those serious about sustainable and organic farming and creating more vibrant community food systems!

- Attracts 1,200 of the most innovative farmers and advocates in the South.
- Provides sustainable and organic production, and direct marketing education, for commercial horticultural and livestock producers.
- Provides enterprise management lessons, farm policy education, and community food systems development information.

Visit our website to learn more about this exciting event at www.sawg.org or call 404-797-0496 to request a brochure.

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, Inc. (Southern SAWG) is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1991 to promote sustainable agriculture in the southern United States.

“I really believe that SAWG conferences are one of the best values for farmers in our region in terms of focused, concentrated, and needed assistance to improve farm productivity and profitability.”

— Jeff Pfitzer, Program Director, Gaining Ground (TN)
ABOUT IPM COMMUNICATOR (contd. from page 1)

Archive: All editions of newsletter will be archived on ACES Publication, Alabama IPM Center, and many other public websites. Please contact the article author/s for additional information. The Editorial Board does not assume responsibility for any technical article or information published in this newsletter.

CALL FOR EXTENSION ARTICLES

Sections: IPM Communicator has many sections such as Entomology, IPM in Forestry, IPM for the Home & Garden, IPM in Schools & Urban Areas, Plant Pathology, Weed Control, and News Around the State. All sections may not appear in each edition if there were no submissions from authors. Additional sections may be created to accommodate critical news articles.

Author guidelines: The IPM COMMUNICATOR is emailed weekly every Friday to hundreds of subscribers. Articles must be received by Wednesday of each week to allow compilation and release. Use the format of published articles in this newsletter to develop your article. Please email finished articles to the Chief Editor in MICROSOFT WORD. Color pictures can be included in the article if it enhances the readability; authors must provide pictures and send information about the image source/s. SEND PICTURES SEPARATELY ATTACHED IN YOUR EMAIL. Email completed article to bugdoctor@auburn.edu.

Articles should be written in easily understandable format; short articles will facilitate rapid reading by audience who typically scan publications for information. Long technical articles will not be published in newsletter unless it is a key story. The editor reserves the right to modify articles to fit newsletter format without affecting the technical details. Announcements for upcoming events is also published in the newsletter.

Suggestions for improvement: Editorial board is always open to suggestions. Please email or call 251-331-8416 to provide your input to the Editorial board.

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