October 21, 2022

good to grow

KENTON COUNTY EXTENSION eNEWSLETTER

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Dan Allen – Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resource Education

Brandon George – Extension Agent for Horticulture

Sustainable Autumn Garden Practices

Brandon George, Horticulture Agent

This time of year, we often mourn the loss of summer displays and prepare our gardens for the long winter months ahead. There is plenty to do in the garden however, and the decisions we make now have a great impact on the health of our gardens and favorable pollinators in the spring. Many of us choose and prefer cutting back herbaceous plant material and perennials now for a clean aesthetic and to get ahead in the spring. Consider this however, many pollinators and microorganisms find refuge and habit in our backyard gardens, and having places to burrow, and hide is important to their survival through the winter months. If you can, leave your perennials up through late winter and prune back when the first sign of growth from the base emerges, sometimes this happens as early as February so be on the lookout. If you do choose to cut back in autumn, consider leaving 1-2ft of stem height remaining on those perennials, these hollow stems are important for beneficial insects that burrow and live in dead plant material over winter.

This year many are seeing the #leavetheleaves hashtag campaign on Instagram and Facebook to highlight the importance of leaves in the garden. Leaves play a critical role in insulating garden beds, providing habitat for insects as well as depositing what will become organic matter. If you have the space, consider creating leaf mulch, or leafmould as the Brits say! Leaves are often a free resource we can collect in the fall, you can simply pile them up, or store them in a chicken wire fence to allow them to stay in place and get good airflow. By spring the leaves of many deciduous trees will have broken down and will provide you with a mulch-like material or top-dressing material for garden beds. Leaf mulch that has sat for two years or more will provide you with rich, black, humus material, full of organic matter which can be used for a multitude of applications. Keeping plant material onsite in your garden is important to saving resources and keeping it out of landfills. Any questions please contact us, and if you want to see our leaf mulch bins at our

Marshall Road Office location, come and visit!

For more information on the benefits of leaving up perennials throughout the winter for pollinator habitat, the importance of leaves, and how to create leaf mulch, visit:
https://www.luriegarden.org/2019/03/15/cutting-back-on-the-cut-back/
https://mailchi.mp/northcreeknurseries/educating-leave-the-leaves
https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=478

Photo Credit to Heather Holmes

Spotted Lanternfly: On the Move!

This invasive and destructive pest has been spotted in Cincinnati as confirmed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. It is a threat to over 70 species of plants including grapes, apples, and cherry. Many trees are on its menu including maple, walnut, and pine. One of their favorites is the Tree of Heaven, also an invasive species. The insects' eggs overwinter. The egg mass looks like mud spread on trees, rocks, and other structures such as cars and firewood. Since there is a lot of interstate travel between Ohio and Kentucky, it is a good idea to be on the lookout for the egg masses and the juvenile and adult pests in the spring and summer. See below for more information and links to efforts on detecting and controlling this pest. If you think you see the egg masses or the insect, collect a sample or take a picture and take it to your local County extension office for identification. Feel free to destroy them.

https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef465

https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/2053

https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/slf

https://www.ramapo.edu/ramapo-green/spotted-lanternfly-and-emerald-ash-borer-information/


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Possible Spotted Lanternfly Egg Mass Look-alikes in Virginia
Theresa Dellinger and Eric Day, Dept. of Entomology, Virginia Tech
Egg masses of the spotted lantern fly, Lycorma delicatula (White), are usually covered with a smooth tan to gray colored coating when fresh. This coating may crack and fall off with age, exposing eggs laid in vertical rows underneath. Some egg masses are laid with only some or no covering at all. Here are a few other insect egg masses found in Virginia to help you recognize those of the spotted lantern fly. Sizes not to scale.
Spotted lanternfly egg mass Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org
Spotted lanternfly eggs without covering. Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org
Chinese mantis egg case Whitney Cranshaw, CO State Univ., Bugwood.org
Gypsy moth egg masses covered with brown hairs. Karla Salp, WA State Dept. of Ag, Bugwood.org
Eastern tent caterpillar eggs Whitney Cranshaw, CO State Univ., Bugwood.org
Cankerworm eggs PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry, Bugwood.org
Lichen on bark Eric Day, Virginia Tech
Wheel bug eggs and nymphs Johnny N. Dell, Bugwood.org
2018 ENTO-279NP
Virginia Cooperative Extension
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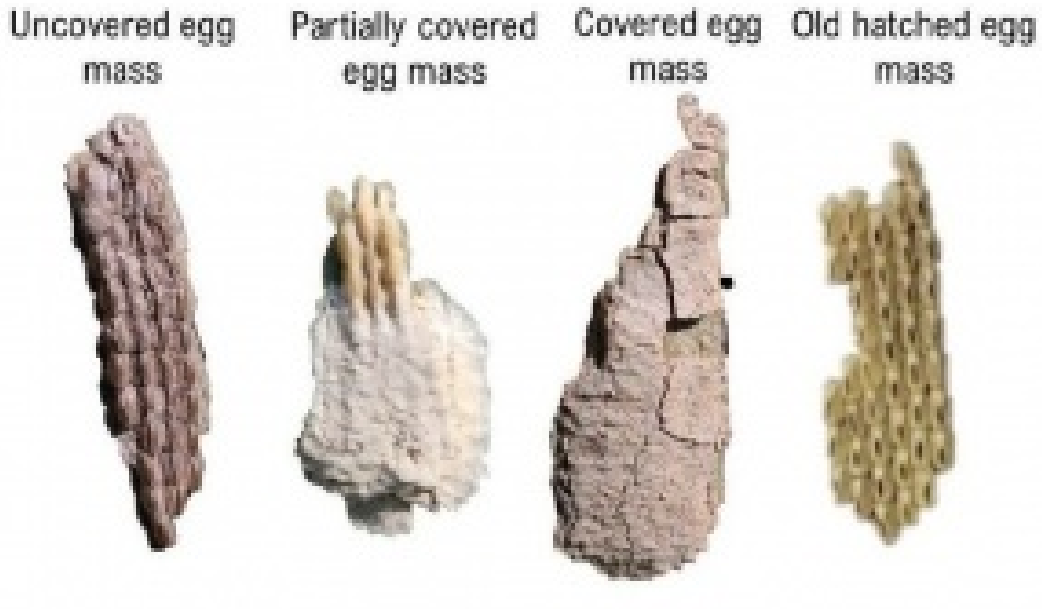
Uncovered egg mass
Partially covered egg mass
Covered egg mass
Old hatched egg mass

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NORTHERN KENTUCKY
COW-CALF SCHOOL

REFRESH YOUR MANAGEMENT, GROW THE HERD

All classes start at 6:30 pm with dinner and program immediately follows at 7:00 pm. To register call your local Cooperative Extension Service by November 25

The Bull
Mon, Nov 28 | Kenton CES

The Cow
Weds, Nov 30 | Grant CES

Managing Forages
Mon, Dec 5 | Kenton CES

The Calf
Weds, Dec 7 | Grant CES

The Heifer
Weds, Dec 14 | Kenton CES

x10D Record Keeping
Mon, Jan 9 | Kenton CES

CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Boone CES 859.586.6101	Campbell CES 859.572.2600	Carroll CES 502.732.7030	Gallatin CES 859.567.5481
Grant CES 859.824.3355	Kenton CES 859.356.3155	Owen CES 502.484.5703	Pendleton CES 859.654.3395

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Plant Pathology Fact Sheet PPFS-OR-W-22

When White Pines Turn Brown...

Common Problems of White Pines in Kentucky

Julie Beale, *Plant Disease Diagnostician*
Nicole Gauthier, *Extension Plant Pathologist*

Introduction

Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) is a popular conifer in many Kentucky landscapes, although its use may be limited to loose, well-drained, pathogen-free soil. Often, needle browning is the primary symptom that alerts homeowners and nursery growers of health problems. In Kentucky, brown needles on white pine are often caused by one of the following three conditions: white pine decline, white pine root decline (Procerum root rot), or Phytophthora root rot. The following descriptions and comparison table (Table 1) may be helpful in determining reasons for tree failure.

White Pine Decline

Symptoms and Cause

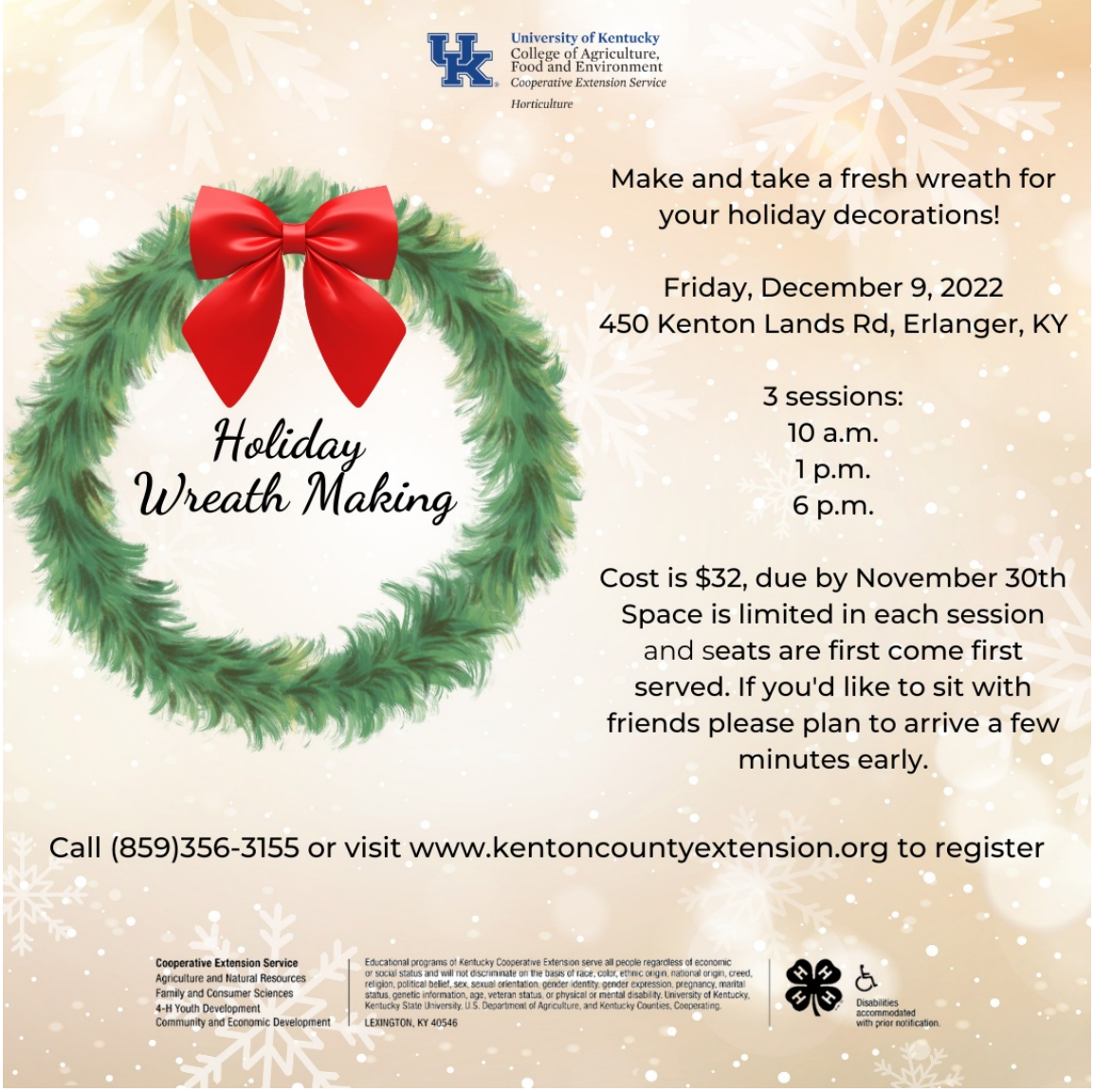
White pine decline is a slow plant death caused by a complex of abiotic (environmental and site-related) factors. The decline is not caused by fungi or other infectious microorganisms. Trees may appear healthy for a decade or more but then start to turn lighter green or slightly yellow compared to healthy trees. Annual shoot growth is reduced and bark of individual branches appears shriveled (Figure 1). Needles are shorter than normal, needle tips turn brown, and the overall tree canopy becomes sparse. Tree browning and death follow.

Several factors related to growing conditions are involved in white pine decline. Declining trees tend

Figure 1. White pine decline symptoms include shriveling bark (arrow) and brown needles.

to be in sites with several or all of the following characteristics:

- High soil pH.
- Soil with high clay content.
- Compacted soil.
- Limited space for root growth.
- History of mechanical disturbances that injured roots.



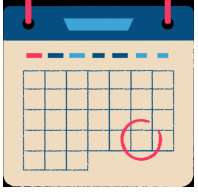
Despite Cooler Weather, Continue Watering This Fall

Brandon George, Horticulture Agent

Weather any time of year is, of course, unpredictable, one month we are swamped with moisture while others are bone dry. On average we normally would receive about 3.75 inches of rain per month with some seasonal fluctuations, but as you probably have been noticing, we are abnormally dry. While August was slightly below average in terms of rainfall received, September and October have been exceptionally dry with little rain to speak of. You may have noticed how brown lawns are looking as well as the shrubs, young trees, and perennial plants growing in the woodland understory looking wilted and stunted as of late. Of course, this would be made worse if this was Summer or we were experiencing hotter temperatures, but even with the cooler days, plants are still struggling in a time that they are transitioning and beginning to put energy back into their root systems. As a result of the drought, plants are going into dormancy earlier this year, dropping leaves sooner, and aborting fruit and nuts prematurely before they are fully ripening. While mature trees and shrubs are a bit more resilient, almost all plants are feeling the effects.

If you can water, consider first watering young plants and those that have been planted/transplanted within the last 3 years. Younger plants likely do not have the root systems to cope with a prolonged drought. By providing them with supplemental water, their root systems will continue to develop this fall and uptake nutrients in the soil with the expansion of feeder roots like they would normally in an average rainfall period. This will increase winter hardiness in their cells, as well as the added benefit that moist soil better insulates roots in freezing weather. To maximize water efficiently, pay close attention to rainfall accumulation locally, and water deeply but infrequently. It's much better to water once a week with a long slow soak rather than watering more shallowly, daily, when most

of that water will be lost to drying winds and low humidity which are experiencing now as well.
Deciduous plants that lose all their foliage can go fully dormant, helping them to stave off moisture loss from transpiring leaves but evergreens cannot. Pay close attention to conifers, hollies, evergreen magnolias, etc. Do not forget that even when the ground is frozen, and days are warm and sunny in winter, those evergreen needles and leaves will continue to transpire, even if all moisture is locked up and frozen in the soil, making it unavailable for uptake by their root systems. If it continues to remain dry going into winter, it is even more important to water these plants now and throughout the winter, otherwise, desiccation can occur with windburn as a noticeable symptom. Consider the effects the drought is having on wildlife too and continue to provide water baths for birds and pollinators who are migrating and gathering late food for the winter ahead.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Saturday, January 28 - NKY Cattle Association Annual Meeting
- Sunday, January 29 - NKY Horse Network Annual Meeting

Horticulture questions?
Contact Brandon: brandon.george@uky.edu
or
Mary Ann: maryann.schultz@uky.edu

Agriculture questions?
Contact Dan: daniel.allen@uky.edu

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

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