

UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter

February 2, 2018

PESTS OF THE WEEK

Spider Mites

I'm always amazed at the ability of arthropods to withstand really cold temperatures. And I enjoy telling people who think really cold winters will eliminate pest problems that they are wrong. I've been working on a research project at Fitzgerald Fruit Farms since last November. Every week 960 leaflet samples are picked and taken back to the office where I look at them under the microscope for the two-spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae*. Even after the severe cold temperatures of the first week of 2018 when temperatures dropped down to 10° F I was able to find adult spider mites. The numbers were definitely lower but they were still there. This week I received a call about low growing junipers with a problem. They've been declining slowly over a number of years. Some sections are dead and will need to be removed. Some sections are still healthy but showing symptoms that suggest both a pest and disease problem. The pest part was fairly easy to figure out. On the samples that I took back to the office I could see lots of spider mite eggs under the microscope. Luckily I caught sight of a very fast moving mite that let me know that the two-spotted spider mite was not the culprit. Unfortunately it moved so fast that I was unable to get an image of it, just the eggs. The spruce spider mite, *Oligonychus unungui*, is a common pest of various conifers including junipers. And apparently it can survive really cold temperatures below freezing too. The feeding of spruce spider mites causes a white stippling or streaking on the needles. Heavy feeding by the two-spotted spider mite leaves a bronzed look on foliage. In high numbers they can both cause major damage. Generally two spotted spider mites are associated with hot, dry weather conditions and the spruce spider mite with the cooler weather in spring and fall. Obviously both can survive winters here as both adults and eggs.

For more information on the two spotted spider mite please visit:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/twospotted_mite.htm

For more information on the spruce spider mite please visit:

https://wiki.bugwood.org/Oligonychus_ununguis



Spruce spider mites eggs



Two spotted spider mite adult

UPCOMING LOCAL UGA ANR PROGRAMS

Home Garden Muscadine Pruning Demonstration

I have a location for demonstrating pruning of muscadine vines if folks are interested. As I mentioned in the last issue there are quite a few misconceptions about pruning. Please contact our office if you are interested. This class would need to take place by the first week in March at the latest. Our office number is 706-672-4235 or you can email me at scj24262@uga.edu.

BeeKeeping Demonstration Class

Jim Quick has offered to hold a demonstration class for managing honeybee hives. The class will take place in April or May. If you are interested please let our office know by calling the office at 706-672-4235 or email scj24262@uga.edu.

Small Ruminant Meeting with Dr. Niki Whitley

Dr. Niki Whitley, FVSU and UGA Small Ruminant Specialist, will visit Meriwether County on Thursday, May 3rd for another “question and answer” session. We will meet at 6 PM at the Meriwether Steak Co. at 4776 Nebula Road, Warm Springs. Be sure to bring your questions and concerns.

OTHER UGA ANR PROGRAMS

2018 Middle Georgia Peach Update

February 20th
USDA Southeastern Fruit and Nut Research Lab
21 Dunbar Road, Byron GA 31008

2018 Middle Georgia Pecan Update

February 28th
Flint Energies Building
3 S. Macon Street
Reynolds, GA 31076
If you plan to attend either of these meetings please contact Jeff Cook at mackiv@uga.edu

2018 Georgia Corn Short Course

Tuesday, February 6 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
UGA Tifton Conference Center at 15 RDC Road, Tifton, GA 31794
Cost is \$5.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door
Topics to be covered:

- Fertility
- Irrigation
- Diseases, Pests and Weeds
- Precision Management

For more information or to register please visit: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/campuses/tifton/conference-center.html> and click on the “See More Events” button. Scroll down to Feb 6 and click on 2018 Georgia Corn Short Course.

2018 Northeast Georgia Beef Cattle Short Course

February 7, 2018
UGA Livestock Instructional Arena located at 2600 S. Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 30605.
The cost is \$25.00 which covers lunch and materials. Topics to be covered are:

- Management Practices to add Value to your Calf Crop
- Controlling the Breeding Season
- Understanding Feeder Calf Grading
- Improving Your Herd Genetics
- Hay vs. Baleage

Attendees will be eligible for three hours credit towards Beef Quality Assurance recertification, one hour private pesticide credit, and one hour commercial pesticide credit.

For more information and to register please visit: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension-outreach/commodities/beef/programs/athens-beef-cattle-short-course.html>

UGA Hosts Inaugural Hay and Baleage Production Short Course

February 22, 2018 at the Carroll County Extension Office

March 8 and 9 at the Burke County Extension Office (Waynesboro, GA).

Stored forages, such as hay and baleage, are a critical component of agriculture in Georgia, carrying livestock producers through times when forage is scarce. This year, the UGA Forage Team is debuting a new event format for hay and baleage producers. The program will focus on techniques for producing high yields of high quality hay and baleage in the Southeast. This Short Course will be valuable for serious hay producers looking to enhance their production system and learn more about modern hay and baleage-making techniques and technology. UGA specialists and researchers will present information on the hay and baleage-making and storage techniques, as well as provide updates on current research. Registration for the short course is \$65. Registration includes a 300+ page Hay and Baleage notebook, a weed ID book, lunches and refreshments.

For more information or to register please visit:

<http://georgiaforages.caes.uga.edu/events/HBSC18/documents/HBSCAgendaFeb2218.pdf>

USDA: WHAT'S NEW

Farmer.gov Interactive Website

Yesterday the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue unveiled Farmers.gov, the new interactive one-stop website for producers maintained by the USDA. Farmers.gov is now live but will have multiple features added over the coming months to allow agricultural producers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms, and apply for USDA programs. The website gathers together the three agencies that comprise USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area: the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency. You can check it out by clicking [here](#).

Collaboration with SCORE for a Mentorship Program

Last fall another program was established that provides new and beginning farmers with help from members of SCORE, the nation's largest volunteer network of expert business mentors. To learn more or to find a mentor please visit: <https://newfarmers.usda.gov/mentorship>

CATTLE

Meriwether Cattlemen's February Meeting

The February meeting is our special Valentine meeting. Members be sure to bring a loved one with you to celebrate with a great meal and great company. We meet on February 8th at 7:00 PM at Meriwether Steak Co. at 4776 Nebula Road, Warm Springs. Our sponsor for the evening is AgSouth.

57th Annual Georgia Cattlemen's Association Convention & Trade Show and the 21st Annual Georgia Beef Expo

April 5-7, 2018 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA

The theme of this year's Convention is "Georgia Grown". The tentative agenda is below.

To register please visit: <https://www.georgiacattlemen.org/conventionregistration.aspx>

For more information please contact call the GCA office at 478-474-6560.

Thursday, April 5 agenda

8:30	Registration Opens
10:00-11:00	Zoetis Cattlemen's College -ACC for Beef Researchers
11:00-12:00	Cattle Video Tele Auction
12:00	GJCA Poster & Photo Contest
12:00-1:00	Zoetis Cattlemen's College Luncheon, with Jerry Carroll, Ag Comedian
1:00-2:00	Dr. Mary Ellen & Doug Hicks -Safe Handling & Chute Side Safety
2:00-5:00	Zoetis Cattlemen's College-BQA Training
3:00	Commercial Heifer Pen Show Judging
3:00-4:00	Trade Show Kickoff
7:00	Awards Banquet (including Junior Awards & Scholarships)

Friday, April 6 agenda

8:00	Registration Opens
9-11:30	Trade Show Open
9:30-10:30	Cattlemen's College "Marketing Local Beef" Panel
10:00	GCWA Cooking Demo
10:30-11:30	GCA General Membership Meeting
11:30-1:00	Cattlemen's College Luncheon featuring Van McCall
12:30	GCWA Annual Meeting & Dessert Social
1:00-5:00	Trade Show Open
1:30	Southeast Elite Female Sale
2:00	GCWA Cooking Demo
3:00	Commercial Heifer Sale
4:00	Georgia Hereford Association Annual Meeting
6:00	Cattlemen's Ball Reception & Silent Auction
7:00	Cattlemen's Ball including the GCA Foundation & Magazine Back Cover Auction

Saturday, April 7 agenda

8:00	Registration Opens
8:30-12:00	Trade Show Open
8:30-10:00	YCC Biscuit Breakfast
11:00	Georgia Hereford Association Sale

KEEP MERIWETHER BEAUTIFUL

First Meeting of 2018

Monday, Feb. 5th at 9:30 AM at the County Administration Building in Greenville at 7234 Roosevelt Hwy Building B.

LOCAL MARKET

Exceptional Pecan Logs

The logs are of furniture quality; cut mid-November 2017; average 12 inches in diameter and 12 feet long; can load on trailer. Please contact Phil White at 706-655-3872.

Strickland Brothers Farm (Durand and Pine Mountain area)

The vegetable field at the crossroad of Chipley Hwy and John Wallace Road is filling up with lots of various greens including spinach, cabbage and sweet potatoes. They are open Mon-Sat. Terry can be reached at 706-881-2414 or you can visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/Stricklands-Garden-233167170487274/>

West Georgia Creamery

The creamery is partly owned by local dairyman Kenneth Murphy and milk produced locally is in the creamery products. Those products are being sold in Meriwether County at **Gentry's Country Store** at 5428 Luthersville Road in Rocky Mount. Their milk products are pasteurized but not homogenized so you get all of the cream on the top. Give the bottle a good shake if you want it mixed up or, if you are like me, sample the cream first, then shake. They have chocolate and buttermilk as well as plain.

Thalia Farms and Apiary

Farm owner Rena Abernathy is looking for pecans. She would like to exchange labor and pecans for honey or labor for a share of the pecans. Rena also has locally produced honey for sale. She can be reached at: imisscolo@aol.com
