

# UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter

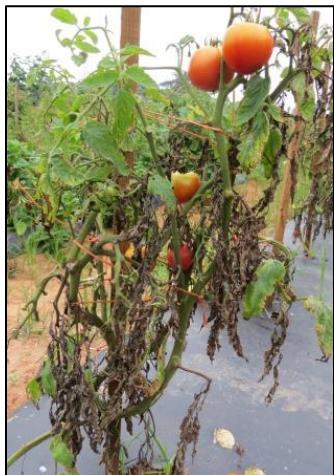
June 30, 2017

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## PEST OF THE WEEK

### **Early Blight of Tomato**

Similar to the issue of squash bugs on yellow squash, I've seen early blight on every farm or garden I've visited where tomatoes are growing this season. The pathogens that causes this disease are a complex of *Alternaria* species. With all of the rain that we've seen this spring it was bound to show up. It's even on plants growing on plastic with drip irrigation. The pathogen resides in the soil on old plant debris. When water from rain or overhead irrigation hits the soil it splashes the pathogen onto the lower leaves of the tomato plants. Early blight is fairly easy to diagnose. The pattern of leaves dying slowly up the plant is typical (see image below). If you look at the foliage before it starts decaying you should be able to see spots that show concentric rings (see image below). If weather is conducive for the disease, plants will become severely defoliated if fungicide applications are not made. Tomato fruits can eventually become damaged too by the fungus or suffer from sunscald because of the lack of protective foliage. Infection by the fungus is most rapid under warm (82-86°F) and wet conditions which is just the weather we have been experiencing for the past two months. All solanaceous plants are susceptible including peppers, Irish potato and eggplant. I have seen slightly infected pepper plants this season. Solanaceous weeds such as horse nettle can serve as a source of inoculum for infection so if you have the disease you want to remove these weeds from the field or garden. Home gardeners are limited to fungicide sprays of copper, chlorothalonil or mancozeb. Commercial growers have more options. Applications should be made before plants are severely infected especially if warm and wet weather continues. If a second planting of tomatoes are made later in the season I highly recommend beginning fungicide applications early on-don't let the disease get started! I do have one nice thing to say about the pathogen *Alternaria solani*-it has really cool looking conidia or asexual spores (see below).



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## **FABULOUS GARDENERS in MERIWETHER**

I recently visited the gardens of Jack Barnes and Carl Duncan. Mr. Barnes has a large garden full of all of the summer time favorites-tomatoes, squash, beans, cucumbers, potatoes and okra. Mr. Duncan grows the summer favorites too including some beautiful eggplant but he also grows heirloom fruit trees including apples, pears and figs. Behind every garden are wonderful stories. I want to thank everyone who is good enough to share their gardens and stories with me.



Jack Barnes and his garden



Eggplant and pears in Carl Duncan's garden



One of the plants that Mr. Duncan and his father grew are gourds. Did you know that Georgia has a Gourd Society which is the Pi Chapter of the American Gourd Society (AGS)? Every year the AGS sponsors the Jim Story Award competition for a single dried manipulated gourd. The Georgia chapter hosts GourdFest every year in Griffin, GA. This year it will take place on September 23-24. You can sign up to take classes on how to decorate your gourds. Even if you don't plan to enter the competition or attend the festival you should check out the websites below just to look at the amazing ways to decorate and manipulate a gourd. The UGA Commercial Production and Management Guide for Pumpkins and Gourds has great information on the types of gourds, variety selection, cultural practices and disease and pest management. The link for the guide is also below. If you decide to grow and decorate some gourds be sure to let me know!

<http://www.georgiagourdsociety.com/index.html>

<http://americangourdsociety.org/award.html>

[https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201180\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201180_4.PDF)

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## **TIMBER**

### **Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Cost Share Program-Georgia Forestry Commission**

The purpose of the SPB cost share program is to help landowners implement various silvicultural practices that will prevent (or minimize) impacts of southern pine beetle infestations, restore healthy, more beetle resistant forests and suppress current beetle infestations. The application period is open until July 7. For more information (and applications) please visit the website below or contact Forester Justin Mayfield at 770-254-7373 or [jwmayfield@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:jwmayfield@gfc.state.ga.us) or Chief Ranger Jeff Mansour at 706-672-4228 or [jmansour@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:jmansour@gfc.state.ga.us).

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/pine-bark-beetles/spb-cost-share-program/index.cfm>

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## **SMALL RUMINANTS**

### **FVSU Meat Technology Center**

Mr. Terrell Hollis of the Fort Valley State University Meat Technology Center will be speaking on the evening of **July 20**. We will meet again at The Magic City Grill at 6:00 PM. You will be able to order dinner before the meeting. After his visit here we will plan a trip to visit their facility in Fort Valley. You can go ahead and start letting me know if you plan to attend by emailing me at [sci24262@uga.edu](mailto:sci24262@uga.edu).

### **Fecal Egg Count Class**

We had a great time this past Tuesday at Dr. Whitley's class. If anyone missed the class but is interested in learning how to take a fecal egg count I have most of the equipment needed-I just need to get a scale. Let me know and we can set up a time to meet in the office.

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## **BEEKEEPING**

### **Introduction to Beekeeping**

Jim Quick, Research Professional in the UGA Entomology Department and Master Beekeeper, will be giving an overview of the art and science of beekeeping on Tuesday, August 1 at 7:00 PM. I am hoping Jim's talk will be the first of many. The location is still to be determined but if you are interested please go ahead and let me know.



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## **FORAGES**

### **GrassMasters**

Preparation for the classes has been finalized. They will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 on Thursday evenings (see dates and topics below) at the Troup County Agricultural Center at 21 Vulcan Materials Rd in LaGrange.

August 31: Introduction to Forages

September 7: Fertilization of Perennial Grasses

September 21: Pest Management

September 28: Hay Production

October 5: Understanding Forage Quality

October 19: Grazing Management and Planning

The program focuses on the forages proven best for northern Georgia and strategies for grazing, maintaining soil fertility and health, and managing pests. Staff members of the UGA Forage Team and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service have teamed up to teach the classes.

The cost for all seven classes is \$25, which covers the cost of an educational handbook and refreshments. Participants must pre-register by contacting the Harris County Extension office at 706-628-4824 before August 25.

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## **FORESTRY**

The **UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources** Continuing Education Program is hosting a Forest Herbicide Workshop on July 18-19 in the Tift County Extension office at 1468 Carpenter Road South, Tifton GA.

### **Continuing Education Credits**

- Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) Hours - Category 1 (applied for)
- Continuing Logger Education (CLE) Hours - Environment (applied for)
- Pesticide Applicator Certifications (applied for)

### **Topics to be covered:**

- Forest herbicide safety and application
- Selection of forest herbicide adjuvants
- Use of herbicides for aquatic vegetation control
- Integration of herbicide use for site preparation, herbaceous weed control and woody release
- Control of invasive exotic plants in forest stands

The fee for this course is \$210, which includes lunch, refreshment breaks, and instructional materials. There is a \$25 discount for fees paid and postmarked by July 5, 2017. To register please visit: <http://conted.warnell.uga.edu>

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## **CATTLE**

### **Meriwether County Cattlemen's Association**

Our next meeting is July 13. We meet at 7:30 PM at the Meriwether Steak Co. located at 4776 Nebula Rd. in Warm Springs. Our speaker will be Brian Maddy, ANR Agent for Troup County. He will give a presentation on sprayer calibration. Pesticide recertification credit for 1 hour will be available for Private Applicators License and for Commercial Applicators in Categories 21, 22 and 23. You must sign-in and stay for the whole presentation to receive credit. Please be sure to bring your license or know the license number for paperwork!

### **7th Annual Georgia Cattlemen's Association Summer Conference**

The 7th annual GCA Summer Conference will be held in beautiful Hiawassee, Georgia on July 28-29 at the Ridges Resort & Marina. Special speakers for the event will be Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle who will talk about his time serving as Lieutenant Governor and his vision for Georgia and its largest industry, agriculture and Bo Ryles, Sr. Director of the National 4-H Council who will speak on being a leader in agriculture and how we can take our experiences and impact others in a positive way.

For more information, schedule of events and to register please visit:  
<https://www.georgiacattlemen.org/summerconferenceregistration.aspx>

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## **LOCAL MARKET**

### **Manchester Market-Vendors Wanted**

Downtown Manchester started a Saturday market on Main Street on June 24, 2017. The market will be open from 8 AM-2PM. They are especially looking for vendors with fresh produce, plants, flowers, arts and crafts, as well as added value products such as baked goods, canned goods and jellies to sell. For those of you with large home vegetable gardens this is a chance to make some money from the bounty.

To participate vendors must obtain a permit which is free. Please contact Carla at Stephens Station at 706-846-9892 or at 116 W. Main Street, Manchester for a vendor information sheet and an application form (or see the ones attached to this email). Organizers plan for the Market to run every Saturday through October.

### **Goat trade**

The Bogles have two healthy, purebred male Saanen goats about 4 months old that they would like to trade for a female or two. If you are interested you can contact them at [thomas\\_bogle@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas_bogle@yahoo.com)



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**The City of Manchester will be having its annual July 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration at the Manchester Mill starting with Band Music at 5:30 PM. The fireworks will begin after dark. Hope to see you there!**

**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY TO EVERYONE!**