# The Extension Cord

Plugging You into Macon-Bibb County Extension









#### **Pecan Phylloxera**

By Karol Kelly, ANR Agent

My daughter's eagle eye was the first to notice...what was that white bump on the leaf of her grandfather's tree? We stopped to look and quickly realized this was a widespread issue - on all of the pecan trees in his yard. A few days later, the neighbors sent me pictures of their trees. Since them, I'd talked to numerous homeowners who have emailed pictures of their pecans. The issue, caused by insects called phylloxera, is seemingly widespread in middle Georgia this year.

Phylloxera are tiny insects, similar to aphids, that feed on plant leaves and stems. The damage seen by their feeding causes the plant tissue to compartmentalize the wound. This results in small white to pinkish bumps on pecan leaves and twigs. The resulting bumps, or galls, then provide a safe area for young insects to develop.

There are three different types of phylloxera in our area – one group feeds on the leaves of younger trees, one on more mature tree leaves, and one on pecan petioles, or leaf stems. While the malformation caused by these insects may be less than desirable, generally they cause no long-term damage or reduction in nut production.

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#### **UGA Extension, Macon-Bibb County**

715 Oglethorpe Street, Macon, GA 31201 • (478) 751-6338 • http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/bibb.html Find us on Facebook at "Bibb County GA Cooperative Extension"

Macon-Bibb County Cooperative Extension extends lifelong learning to Georgia citizens through unbiased, research-based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth and families.

University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution.

If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Bibb County Cooperative Extension at 478-751-6338 or bibb.extension@uga.edu, at least three weeks prior to the program date.

#### 4-H Day at the Georgia State Capitol



The Georgia Capitol building turned shades of green as 4-H youth and adult leaders joined elected officials for the largest Georgia 4-H Day at the Capitol on record with nearly 700 attendees. Bibb County 4-H attended with 15 students.

Outstanding 4-H'ers from counties across the state gathered to engage with their legislators, observe leadership in action, and learn about the civic process.





## 20 SUMMER 24 RCTIVITIES





- June 3rd 9AM 2PM Halfway to DPA, Portfolio workshop for 7-12th graders
- June 6th 9AM 12PM \$4 Build your favorite slime or putty at the 4-H slime bar
- June 6th 12:30PM 4PM \$4 Build your favorite slime or putty at the 4-H slime bar
- June 10th 9 AM 4PM \$4 Intro to Forestry: learn to identify our native trees, insects and plant diseases.
- June 12th 10AM 4PM \$4 Wet N Wild Wednesday Make a Splash at the Monroe County Splash pad
- June 21-23 FRI-SUN \$95.00 State Council 9th-12th graders
- July 12th 7PM \$17 Join us for 4-H night at the Macon Bacon game
- July 15th 10AM 8PM \$4 Take a day-trip to Tybee Island with us!
- July 18th 8AM -4:30 PM \$12 Visit the Atlanta History Center with 4-Hers from across the state

### **Register Now!**

Full payment must be turned in with registration to the Macon-Bibb County Extension Office

Call our office to register today! If you want more information on individual summer activities, please visit our Facebook page at Bibb County GA Cooperative Extension.

#### Hello? Avoid Telemarketing and Scam calls!

By Keishon Thomas, FACS Agent

Roughly 33 million Americans receive scam robocalls daily. There is nothing ruder and more obnoxious than being barraged with unwanted calls at all hours of the day. If you have finally had enough of vehicle warranty offers and to-good-to-be-true sales pitches, there are a few actions you can take that will greatly reduce these telemarketing calls.

Speak Up - The most efficient way to get the person to stop calling you requires you to say one sentence: "Please put me on your Do-Not-Call list."

Block the number - Your phone has built-in security tools to protect you from scammers, and you should get to know one of the most basic: the block function.

Don't engage with the telemarketer in any way. This gives them the false hope that you may just need some convincing and are interested in their product. Do not ask questions. Do not explain why you are not interested in the product.

**Stop** - The next time you download an app or sign up for a service, question whether you really need to provide your telephone number. Limiting the information, you provide can help to keep it from being shared or sold to third party marketers.

Protect your number - Add your number to the national Do-Not-Call list. Here is the link https://www.donotcall.gov/. You must register each individual telephone number.



Be wary of numbers that show your local area code. Sometimes telemarketers are crafty and utilize local area codes to entice you to pick up.

Don't say yes - If you answer and realize it is a telemarketer, do not answer questions with "yes." Voice commands can be recorded and used against you by scammers to represent consent to purchase products or services.

Don't be emotionally swayed - Be careful sometimes scammers will use familiar titles and language to get you unfocused. For example, they may say, "Grandma I need your help," or "Mom, how are you?"

Delicia James



Kori McDaniel 4-H Program Assistant AmeriCorps Service Member

#### 4-H Program Leadership

Though Bibb Extension is in the process of hiring a new 4-H Agent, the Bibb 4-H is in the very capable hands of two relatively new members of the Bibb Extension team, Delicia James and Kori McDaniel. Kori said, "I whole-heartedly believe that 4-H is the greatest youth development program and I am so grateful to be a part of this organization and its impact on our youth." They have planned a summer program of fun and learning for 4-H youth. Learn more about Bibb 4-H: https://extension.uga.edu/countyoffices/bibb/4-h-youth-development.html.



Pecan Phylloxera, continued from page 1

While it often isn't practical to apply pesticides to large pecan trees in homeowner settings, there are a few things that might reduce the phylloxera populations next year. Since there are some eggs that will overwinter in the tissue of the galls, cleaning up and disposing of fallen leaves may help. Also, maintain good tree health. Keep trees watered during dry spells. Lime and fertilize according to a soil test.

For more information on this pecan insect, visit: <a href="https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/southern-pecan-leaf-phylloxera/">https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/southern-pecan-leaf-phylloxera/</a>

#### Welcome to the Team!

Welcome Valencia Gamble to the Bibb County Extension team! We're growing and changing everyday, and we're thrilled to have her along for the ride. Valencia is our new front desk admin, where she assists in answering your calls with a cheerful attitude and meeting you at the front door with a warm welcome. Among her other duties, she offers FACS program support as well.



