



Shades of Green

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources E-Newsletter

October 2021



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A note from Athens-Clarke County Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hello readers and Happy Fall! We hope you all have enjoyed the cooler temperatures and entry into the coming season. We are looking forward to it ourselves!

This month, there are several seasonal events going on to get you in the spirit of fall. Make sure to check out the ones we have listed in our "[Local Events](#)" page of this newsletter.

Our [Green Thumb Lecture](#) for this month is all about [Caring for Houseplants](#). To register, make sure to visit accgov.com/gardening.

Don't forget, the application window is still open to apply for our [Spring 2022 Master Gardener Volunteer Course](#). If you are interested in applying or would like to know what the program is all about, don't hesitate to reach out to our office.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue of "Shades of Green".

Take care,

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources



Come visit our Demonstration and Training Garden!

By John Aitkens, Athens-Area Master Gardener Extension Volunteer



*Athens Area
Master Gardeners*

Hidden behind the new Athens-Clarke County Extension Office, 275 Cleveland Road off the Atlanta Highway, is a beautiful little jewel of a garden where flowers, ornamentals, veggies and fruits are grown for your viewing pleasure.

Welcome to your garden! The land and all the structures were purchased and built using SPLOST 2011 tax money, therefore this garden belongs to all of us!

The labor, plants and materials are largely donated by a partnership of the Athens Area Master Gardeners Association and the Athens-Clarke

County Extension Service. Master Gardeners continue to work here every day to maintain and grow the garden.

Feel free to enjoy it anytime — the gate is never locked, but please do not pick flowers, fruits or vegetables so others can enjoy them, too.

Vegetables and fruits are used by the Extension Service in cooking demonstrations, and also donated to the First Responders at the Fire Station.

Finally, be sure to sign the Visitors Log in the mailbox at the garden. And when you leave, please close and latch the gate. The deer would love to enjoy the garden, too!





Rainy weather brings leaf spot disease

By Paul Pugliese

Excessive rain signals another a bad year for leaf spot diseases on landscape trees and shrubs.

The leaf spotting that affects pear trees, including both edible pears and ornamental Bradford types, is caused by a fungal disease known as *Entomosporium* leaf spot. This disease also affects related shrubs such as Indian hawthorn and red tip photinia.

Bug-like spores

The name of this disease comes from the fact that the spores look like tiny insects under a microscope. "*Entomosporium*" literally means insect-like spores.

Leaf spot symptoms may vary with host plants. At first, leaf spots are small, purplish and round. As the spots get older, they become sunken with a white-to-grayish center and a raised dark purple-to-black border. Within the center of each spot, the fungus produces a raised black, pimple-like fruiting structure.

Some leaf spots, such as those on Bradford pear, may be small and circular with a black, oily appearance. Each leaf spot is capable of producing

hundreds of spores. Extensive defoliation — or dropping of leaves — will occur if the leaf spots are numerous. Pear trees that are otherwise healthy can tolerate a significant amount of leaf spotting and premature leaf drop. But shrubs such as Indian hawthorn and red tip photinia can become severely infected, drop most of their leaves, and potentially die if the problem recurs annually.

Leaf spot loves wetness

Infection is favored by poor air circulation and prolonged periods of leaf wetness — like we saw last spring. Depending on the weather, some years are worse than others for leaf spot disease. By mid-April, northwest Georgia had already received from 5 to 10 inches of surplus rain this year-to-date compared to the average.

Plants that have very dense branches and a tight leaf canopy take longer to dry out when wet. Selective pruning can open up the canopy to more sunlight, increase air circulation throughout the plant and reduce disease incidence.

This leaf spot disease is named for the spores that look like tiny insects under a microscope. "*Entomosporium*" literally

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Rainy weather brings leaf spot disease (continued...)

means insect-like spores.

Increasing plant spacing, especially between hawthorns and red tips, can also help with air circulation and leaf drying. Avoid wetting leaves unnecessarily with overhead or sprinkler irrigation systems. If supplemental watering is needed, direct water toward the roots rather than the leaves, and water early in the morning so that the foliage can dry out more quickly.

Spray in spring

Severely infected leaves that have fallen on the ground should be removed from the area and destroyed. Infection occurs primarily in the milder weather of the spring.

Fungicides are most effective during this time. However, once the leaves are showing disease spots, the damage is already done and fungicides provide little benefit to plants. The key to managing Entomosporium is to spray as soon as you begin to see leaf spots on new leaf growth in early spring and prevent spread of the disease before it becomes more severe.

Protective fungicide applications can be applied when leaves emerge in early spring and continue at 10- to 14-day intervals throughout the growing season. Fungicides that contain chlorothalonil or

propiconazole are effective on Entomosporium leaf spot and many other leaf spot diseases. Be sure to read and follow the application rates and safety precautions listed on the label.

Certain varieties of trees and shrubs are more susceptible than others. Do your homework before planting pears and hawthorns in the landscape to select the most disease-resistant variety. Hydrangea plants are also susceptible to [fungal leaf spot disease](#). Resistant varieties aren't totally immune to these leaf spot diseases, but they won't require as much work to keep them looking decent. Unfortunately, if you like red tip photinias, there really aren't any good varieties on the market. For the most part, nurseries and landscapers have discontinued using fraser photinia (red tip) because of this leaf spot disease.

For more information and free farm, [lawn or garden publications](#) or to find your local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agent, visit extension.uga.edu.

(*Paul Pugliese is the Agriculture and Natural Resources agent for the University of Georgia Extension office in Bartow County.*)



Leyland cypress trees often planted incorrectly

By Tim Daly



(Image: CAES Newswire)

Leyland cypress are one of the most commonly planted landscape trees, but poor site selection and disease pressure may soon send them the way of red tips and Bradford pears.

Popular as a hedge and in new development, the trees must be planted at least 10 to 15 feet apart, as the trees' rapid growth will require thinning out the trees after a few years to prevent them from growing into one another and reducing the air circulation needed in the canopy to prevent disease.

Inexpensive, fast-growing and tall

"Leyland cypress trees are one of the most commonly planted trees in the landscape," said Tim Daly, a University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agent in Gwinnett County. "They are popular because of their fast growth and their ability to provide a screen against traffic areas or neighbors." Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*) is a hybrid species that resulted from a cross between the Nootka false cypress (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) and the Monterey cypress, (*Cupressocyparis macrocarpa*). It was discovered on a British estate in the late 1800s, Daly said. Poor site selection can create

problems with Leyland cypress trees. "They grow into large trees, and in some parts of the world they can reach 100 feet tall and nearly 50 feet wide," Daly said. "Think of the damage a tree that size could do to your house, fence or driveway only a few feet away."

Four feet taller each year

It may be hard to imagine a small Leyland cypress growing into a 100-foot tall tree, but with proper care, it can and will happen, he said. Leyland cypresses grow about 4 feet per year in height and 2 to 3 feet in width.

They require full, all-day sun. "Shade will reduce their vigor, causing them to thin out and become more susceptible to diseases," Daly said. "They also need plenty of air circulation inside the canopy to dry out the branches and leaves."

Planting too close to a fence, building or each other will prevent the interiors of the trees from drying out, he said, and could lead to fungal diseases.

Well-drained soil a must

Disease pressure, improper planting and overuse may send Leyland cypress

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Leyland cypress trees often planted incorrectly (continued...)

the way of plants like the red tip photinia and Bradford pears, according to Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Tim Daly.

The tree is best suited for fertile, well-drained soils. "The amount of soil water is one of the most critical factors in the growth of Leyland cypress," Daly said. "Excess water will increase root-rotting fungal diseases, and too little water leads to stress and ultimately stem and leaf diseases." To monitor the soil moisture, use a shovel to open a 4-inch-deep gap in the soil near the base of the trees. Feel the soil and test it for moisture. If it feels dry, water. If it feels wet, avoid watering. Diseases can take their toll on Leyland cypress trees. "Using chemical control is not feasible because application is ineffective and will not have effect on control," he said. "Severely infected trees may have to be removed."

Waning popularity

Disease pressure, improper planting and overuse may send Leyland cypress the way of plants like the red tip photinia and Bradford pears, he said.

Red tip photinias are small trees that were used extensively in the 1980s as a hedge. Most of the plants succumbed to Entomosporium fungal leaf spot disease. Bradford pears, although not afflicted with any serious diseases, have quick-growing soft wood and crotches at an angle. This causes the branches to split off easily.

Alternatives to Leyland cypress

Several substitutes for Leyland cypress are available. Here are Daly's recommendations:

Hollies like 'Nellie R. Stevens' and 'Emily Bruner' varieties. These are best for borders in full sun. Arbovitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), particularly the 'Green Giant' cultivar, which was selected as a 2007 Georgia Gold Medal Plant.

Wax myrtles (*Myrica cerifera*) grow rapidly in full sun.

Tea olive (*Osmanthus fragrantissima*) or lusterleaf

holly (*Ilex latifolia*) are good choices for shaded hedgerows.

"In general, these plants don't suffer from the problems afflicting Leyland cypress as much," Daly said. "But they still need to be given proper cultural conditions such as applying the correct amount of water."

For more lawn care and landscaping resources from UGA Extension, visit extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/lawn-garden-landscapes

(*Tim Daly is an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Gwinnett County, Georgia*)



(Image: CAES Newswire)

Athens-Clarke County Extension

Virtual Green Thumb Lectures

2021 Free Monthly Gardening Class Series



October: Caring for Houseplants

Please join us online for an informative presentation on topics including:

- Selecting the right houseplant
- How to care for and maintain your houseplants
- Preventing pests and troubleshooting

Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome.

WHEN:

Wednesday, October 13 · 6:00-7:30 pm

WHERE:

ONLINE via Zoom.com

Specific link to join Zoom meeting will be sent to the email you register with.

TO REGISTER:

Registration is required. Please register by October 12 by visiting

www.acgov.com/gardening

For questions:

Contact Laura Ney, Extension Agent at
706-613-3640 or lney@uga.edu

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Local “Green” Events

Atlanta Botanical Garden Scarecrows in the Garden

September 28-October 31

[Visit their website for details and hours.](#)

2021 Georgia National Fair

October 7-17, 2021

Perry, Georgia

[Visit the Georgia National Fair website](#) for tickets and more information.

10TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE Connect to Protect

October 7-9 and 14-16, 2021
Thursday-Friday, 4-6pm Saturday, 9am-NOON
2450 S. Milledge Avenue, Athens GA 30605
For more information [visit the State Botanical Garden of Georgia Online](#).

Athens Clarke County Leisure Services have several Fall Holiday events in October. To find out about these events and how to register, [visit their website](#).

Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department 2021 ACC Vulture Festival

Saturday, October 9

Activities from 7:30am-12pm at the ACC Solid Waste Outdoor Classroom

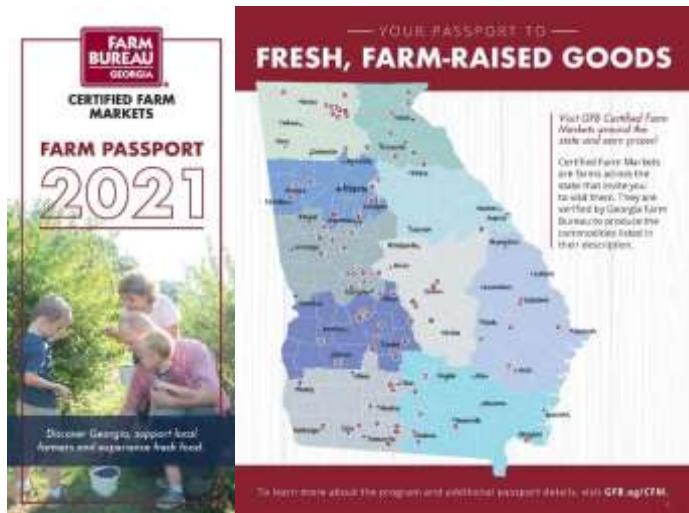


For more information, visit the [event's website](#).

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia has great local events occurring each month. Make sure to check out their [event calendar](#) or [discover education activities for home](#).

Georgia Farm Bureau® Farm Passport

- The Farm Passport is your guide to finding and visiting farms throughout Georgia. You and your family can explore the state, support local farms, and eat fresh food while learning where it comes from!
- You can download a printable copy of the passport or find a location to pick one up, as well as find out more information here: <https://www.gfb.org/education-and-outreach/passport.cms>



UGA Extension offices around the state are working hard at developing quality online presentations on various topics.

Visit the UGA Extension [event calendar](#) to see events happening local to our county as well as virtual opportunities.

Local Farmers Markets



The **Athens Farmers Market** is taking place on Saturdays from 8am-12pm at Bishop Park. Make sure to visit [their website](#) for updates and details.

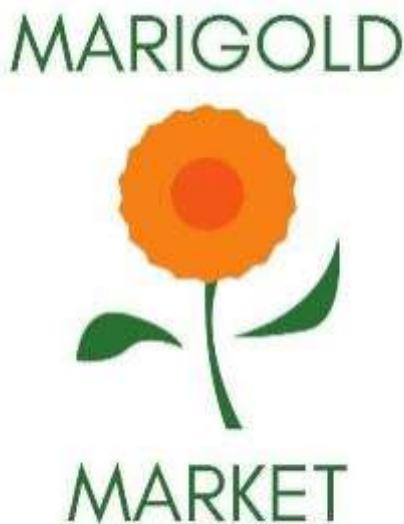
Find them on Facebook: [@AthensFarmersMarket](#)
Follow them on Instagram:
[@athensfarmersmarket](#)



West Broad Farmers Market

Online ordering with pick-up and delivery options are available on Saturdays.

Visit [their website](#) to find out how to order online.
Find them on Facebook:
[@WestBroadMarketGarden](#)



The **Winterville Farmers Market** is taking place on Saturdays from 10am-2pm at Pittard Park. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Find out more on Facebook:
[@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)
Instagram: [@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)

Would you like to become an Athens Area Master Gardener?

Established in 1990, the Athens Area Master Gardener Program provides novice and seasoned gardeners with an intensive educational experience in horticulture principles, practices and pest management. Classes are taught by UGA faculty and other subject area experts.

After completing the educational component of the program, participants perform 50 hours of volunteer service in their community before the end of the calendar year. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers answer gardening questions at the ACC Extension office, staff informational booths at farmers markets and local events, conduct plant clinics, help with Plant a Row for the Hungry gardens, assist curators at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, teach Junior Master Gardener programs at local schools and more.

Question? Contact Laura Ney at Iney@uga.edu



Athens-Clarke
County 2022 Master
Gardener Extension
Volunteer Program



**APPLICATIONS
ARE DUE
NOVEMBER 12,
2021**



Course topics include:

- Botany & Plant Physiology
- Soils & Plant Nutrition
- Entomology
- Plant Pathology & Disease Control
- Landscape Design
- Vegetable Gardening
- Fruit Gardening
- Herb Gardening
- Organic Gardening
- Annuals, Perennials & Bulbs
- Plant Propagation
- Composting
- Weed Science
- Integrated Pest Management

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Dates

Tuesday and Thursday
mornings, January 6 —
April 7, 2022

Time

8:45am-11:30am

Location

Athens-Clarke County
Extension Office
275 Cleveland Road
Bogart, GA 30622

Cost

\$250

To apply

Contact ACC Extension
at (706) 613-3640 or
email Iney@uga.edu



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Join Athens-Clarke County 4-H!



Students in 5th - 12th grades in Athens-Clarke County can sign up for 4-H now. The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. 4-H meetings will look different this year and are online. There is no charge to be a member or participate in a competition.

To start your 4-H Adventure e-mail the ACC 4-H Agent, Elizabeth Conway, at ebarber@uga.edu today!



The University of Georgia is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Virtual 4-H Programs can be viewed on the ACC 4-H website:
<https://tinyurl.com/acc4hvirtual>





Concerned about the state of your garden?

Are weeds taking over your landscape?

No need to fear, Clarke is here!

Follow @gardenwithclarke on Instagram  and learn how to battle pests, identify weeds, build your soil and so much more as you garden alongside Clarke, Athens-Clarke County's super gardener!



gardenwithclarke

UGA Extension Athens-Clarke County



Helpful resources online:

[Find My Local Extension Office](#)

[Pest Management Handbook](#)

[SE Ornamental Horticulture Production & IPM Blog](#)

[Bugwood— Pest Images](#)

[Georgia Turf Pesticide Applicator Info](#)

[UGA Center for Urban Agriculture](#)

[Landscape Alerts Online](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)

[Georgia Certified Plant Professional](#)

[Extension Publications](#)

Athens-Clarke County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mission Statement

The UGA Athens-Clarke County Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, research-based education and information.

Visit us online:



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