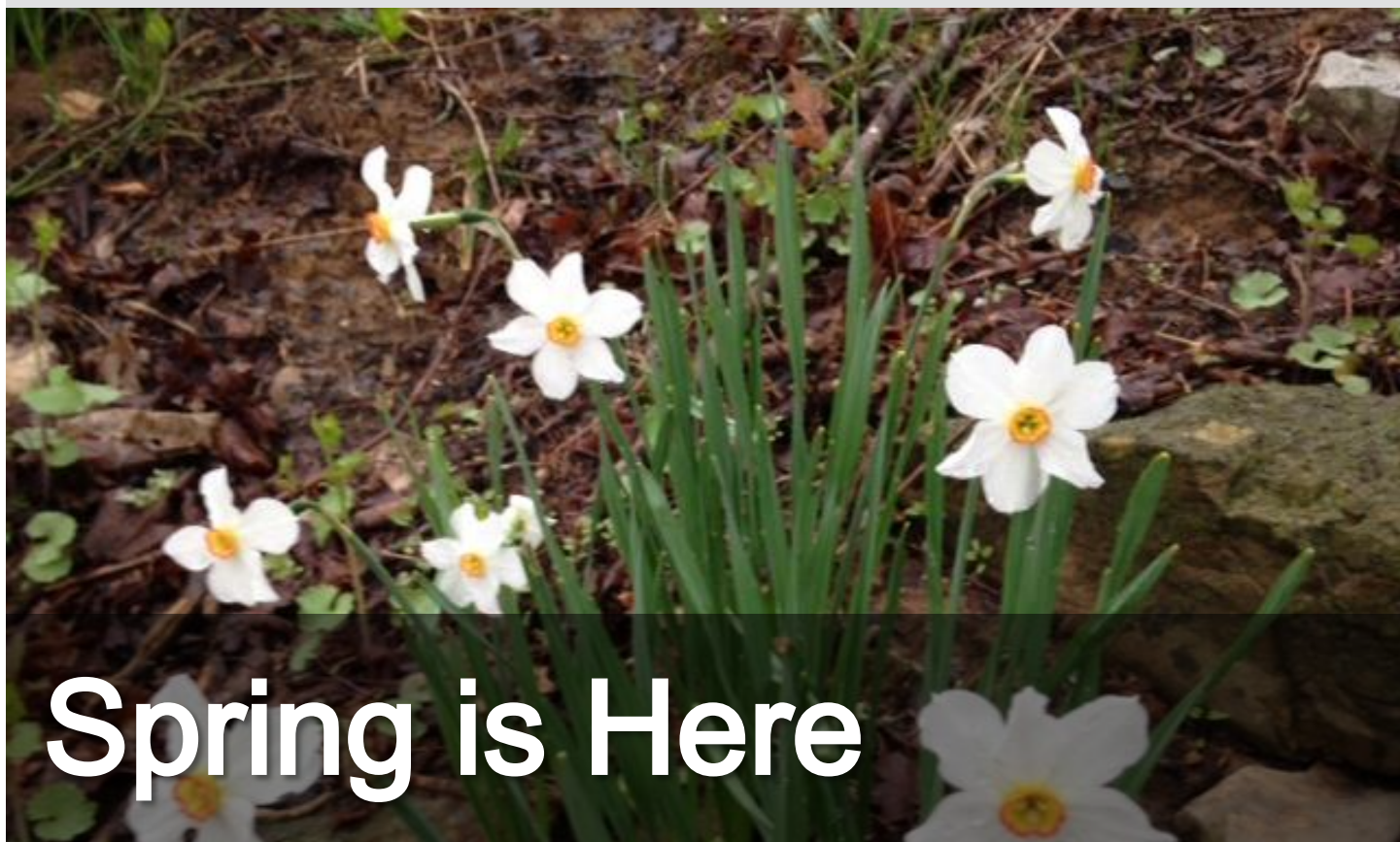




Growing Athens County

May | 2015



Spring is Here

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Greetings and Salutations

It has now been six months since I started here as the Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator for Athens County. I have been able to meet many of you through various meetings and personal consultations. It has been a whirlwind of getting re-established in the community and introducing my family to what I have always considered home. Everyone has made me feel welcome.

There has been a lot going on since I got here; meetings, both day and night, fixing up the old home place every free moment that I had (the pig was very thankful for a warm place to stay and so was my wife), and relearning the language (It took me a long time to say y'all and I ended up always saying 'you all'. Now I have to switch back to 'you guys').

This newsletter is here to help you and your operation. Take a look and be honest with me if it's lacking a little something.



Master Gardener Training

I have been involved with Master Gardener Volunteers for the last 10 years. For the most part, it has been a struggle to get the program up and running in my previous counties. With groups of one to three volunteers, we were able to make a small difference, but there was always a bit of frustration as they always wanted to accomplish more than they were able.

To my delight, I found a large and vibrant group of volunteers here in Athens County. Without much leadership from a full-time Extension Educator over the last couple of years, they continued to work and support the program. Volunteers planned and coordinated the training classes for new volunteers. Even with snow days and initial low numbers of students interested in taking classes, everything turned out great. This year's class graduated this week with ten new volunteers that look like they are full of energy and ready to get started helping with the many projects around the county. Not only did I have a dedicated committee of folks who planned the classes, but each week, Master Gardeners volunteered to help out and lightened the workload.

Volunteers make Master Gardeners happen

In the next month, we will meet to take a look at what we learned about the training, examine the comments left by our graduating class and start planning for the next class

of volunteers. If you are a Master Gardener and would like to get involved in the process, let me know and we will be happy to include you. If you are not a Master Gardener, but might be interested in joining the group, let us know and I will get you information and we will keep you informed when the next class is forming.

I would like to give a special thanks to Lee Gregg, Sharon Deno, Mary Culp and Rhonda Koch for their hard work in planning and conducting this year's classes.

Join Master Gardeners



Master Gardener Volunteer Training classes are held each winter/spring. Let us know if you are interested and we will keep you updated about upcoming classes.

Do Homemade Herbicides Work?

University of Illinois Extension

Recipes for homemade weed killers abound on the Internet. University of Illinois Extension Specialist Michelle Wiesbrook explains why homemade is not always better.

It's important to keep in mind that anyone can post anything and make it look believable. All that is needed is a recipe using any of the below listed ingredients, an adjective like AMAZING or BEST, and a pretty picture to draw attention to it. These little gems spread like wildfire on social media. Popular mixes seem to include one or more of these main ingredients: vinegar, boiling water, bleach, baking soda, alcohol, salt, dish soap, and borax. There is a certain comfort level associated with these products. They can be found around the home after all. Some of them are even edible!

Unfortunately, the disadvantages of these home remedies often outweigh the advantages. These products don't contain labels with safety or rate information and yet they can still be hazardous to your health. Vinegar can be effective for weed control but only if it is a strong enough grade, which the bottle in your kitchen likely isn't. Vinegar contains acetic acid and acetic acid concentrations over 11% can cause burns upon skin contact. In fact, eye contact can result in severe burns and permanent corneal injury. This is why reading and following the label is so important. There are now registered herbicidal vinegar products you can buy that have use and safety information on their label.

One other important disadvantage is that weed control often is only temporary or partial with only the top growth being affected. Boiling water would certainly be death on green leaves. The roots however are protected. If your weed is a perennial or if it has a deep taproot, you can bet it will grow back. Plus, how safe is it to carry big pans of boiling water out the door to your garden? Everything has a risk and furthermore everything can be toxic ... even water.

Read the complete article at:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/newsdetail.cfm?NewsID=29244>

New Herbicide-Resistant Crops

By Mary Ann Rose

After lengthy reviews, the USDA recently deregulated several new genetically modified crops that are resistant to herbicides. Monsanto has approval for Xtend soybean and cotton varieties with resistance to both dicamba and glyphosate. Dow AgroSciences will release Enlist soybeans, resistant to 2,4-D, glyphosate, and glufosinate, as well as Enlist corn, which is tolerant to 2,4-D and resistant to glyphosate and the FOP grass herbicides. The FOP grass herbicides (chemical name: aryloxyphenoxypropionate) include the active ingredients quizalofop, fluazifop, and diclofop. Volunteer Enlist corn seedlings that pop up after rotating out of corn may be controlled by other grass herbicides (e.g., the "DIM" herbicides that include the active ingredients sethoxydim and clethodim). It's hoped that these new herbicide resistance traits will help turn the tide against glyphosate resistant weeds, but farmers will have to wait until at least 2016 before the new crops are widely available.

Fertilizer Certification

There has been some question as to who needs to get fertilizer certification. Here are some of the key facts:

- Farmers who sell at least 50 acres of crops or hay need to be certified
- Farmers who use their crops or hay for their own livestock do not need to be certified
- Farmers who hold a current Pesticide Applicators license only need to attend a two-hour training class
- Farmers who do not hold a current Pesticide Applicators license need to attend a three-hour training class
- Your Fertilizer Applicator Certificate expires with your Pesticide license or after three years
- The deadline to certify is 2017
- Once you certify, you will need to start keeping fertilizer application records

If you have any questions, you now have a full time Extension Educator ready to help. Call him up and make him earn his keep.

SWD Trap

- Clear plastic cup (1 quart) with lid (Deli containers work great)
- Drill 3/16" holes around the upper portion of the container
- Bait:
 - 1 inch deep in each trap
 - 4 teaspoons of dried baker's yeast (2 packages), 2 teaspoons sugar, 1 quart apple cider vinegar, ¼ teaspoon of unscented Ultra Pure dish soap (Makes 1 qt. of bait that can be divided amongst multiple traps.)
- Use strainer and fine brush to remove trapped insects
- Change bait weekly; do not dump in field
- Hang trap close to fruit.
- Trap may catch other insects.
- Start regimented spray program as soon as (1) SWD is found and until all harvests are complete.

Do salt water weekly with fresh fruit to determine if your spray program is effective.

- In zip-top bag: ¼ cup salt + 4 cups warm water + ½ cup of fruit
- After 20 minutes, look for larvae floating to top



Fruit Growers Fighting an Invasive Insect

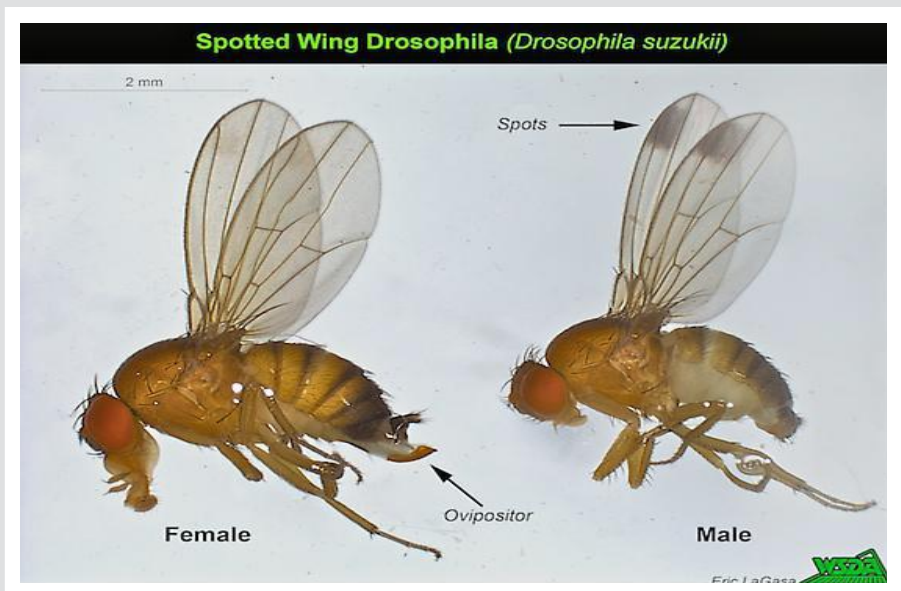
Amanda Douridas and Ed Brown

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) flies have become a devastating pest for fruit farms across Ohio. This pest hit Ohio in 2011 and attacks healthy, ripening fruit which can destroy the marketability of an entire crop if not properly controlled. SWD will feed on a myriad of fruits and prefer raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, but are known to infest grapes, peaches, plums, strawberries, and cherries. Fruit at low risk of infestation are pears, apples and tomatoes. The larvae feed on the inside of the fruit for several days and there are several generations each year which enables them to attack so many different fruit species and ripening periods.

Growers should trap for adult SWD and as soon as one is found in the trap, a spray program with residual activity should begin and continue every seven days from the start of ripening through final harvest. Rotating the insecticide mode of action used throughout the season is critical to prevent SWD from developing resistance to a certain class of products. SWD can also affect home fruit growers and there are products available for home fruit production as well.

Traps can be made using ingredients found around the home. Use the directions in the sidebar to build your own. If you need help with identification of insects, bring them to the office for verification.

For more information visit: <https://u.osu.edu/pestmanagement/info/swd/>



Male SWD with spots on their wings and female with serrated ovipositor



Strawberry Field Night

At OSU South Centers

- **Thursday, May 21, 2015 5:30 — 9:00 P.M.**

- **Location:** OSU South Centers
1864 Shyville Rd., Piketon, OH

- **Cost:** \$20.00 per person

(Includes handouts and dinner served from 5:30 to 6:00)

- **To Register:** You must register Contact Charissa McGlothin at mcglothin.4@osu.edu
740.289.2071 ext. 132

- **DEADLINE to register is May 19, 2015.**

- **Special guest speakers**

Terry Masterson and Terrance Hunt

Adev Automation Inc. Advanced Robotics

- pest and disease control
- spotted Wing Drosophila monitoring and trapping
- integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques
- petiole sap analysis demonstration

Plasticulture and matted row strawberry field research will be showcased.

Topics to be covered will include:

- winter protection techniques
- Israeli drip irrigation demonstration and management
- fertigation and nitrogen management
- row cover management
- June bearing, day-neutral, ever-bearing cultivar evaluations



Robotic strawberry picker



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The Last Word

I am from the government and I am here to help you...really. Feel free to come by my office to ask a question or discuss your operation. If you would like me to look at something or just proud of what you have done on the farm, I am also available. Since the office is closed on Fridays, I like to be out in the field and see what's going on around the county. I could even meet with a group of farmers in your area to discuss issues or do a demonstration.

I have started a Facebook page where I will be putting current information, news, and events for all things related to horticulture and agronomy. Check it out.



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