

Harvest Time

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The Seasons are changing

Well, I am back where I started. It was a year ago that I started here in Athens County. The one thing that I can say is that there hasn't been a lack of things to do both at work and at the old home place. It would be nice to say that I have everything settled and I am now in my routine. The only thing I can really say is that I have reached the end of the beginning. The roof is on the house and not leaking for the first time in over 60 years, heat is being put in next week just in time for the cooler weather, fences are going up, pigs are on the ground and the farm transition plan is down on paper. At the office, Master Gardeners are strong and growing, farm visits have been made, advisory groups have been established, new programs have been developed and the winter calendar is just about full. I couldn't have asked a more supportive group of people. Now I just need to get out and enjoy some of the pleasures of the season.

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Periodical Cicadas Distribution Map

Periodical cicadas emerge in specific locations once every 17 years in the northern part of their range, and once every 13 years in the southern part. Different groups called "broods" emerge somewhere in the eastern United States almost every spring.

In Ohio, we have four broods that regularly appear. The map above illustrates the approximate range of each of these broods

17-Year Cicadas will be here next year

and the years that they should appear.

Because of the long time taken by these insects to complete their life cycles, many things can happen that modify local populations. Wood lots are often destroyed and new developments where trees that are 14 to 15 years old have been established after the last brood's emergence. If new developments are adjacent to wooded areas that have supported a brood, the adults will commonly fly to the younger trees to lay their eggs. This helps expand their territory and maintain their populations for the next 17 years!

It is a regular occurrence of broods to have individuals (occasionally significant numbers) that emerge a year



early or a year later than what would be expected.

17-Year Cicadas

In Ohio, all our broods contain the three species of 17-year cicadas! It is difficult to separate the species unless you hear their songs

SCN Reports

If your SCN report in the past has come back as:

1. **Not detected**: this is not surprising. Remember that SCN sits in pockets and can be quite variable (Figure 1). Continue to monitor your fields.

2. **Trace**: May begin to measure some yield loss on susceptible varieties, especially on lighter soils.

3. **Low**: Plant SCN resistant varieties or rotate to a non-host crop (corn or wheat).

4. **Moderate**: Rotate to a non-host crop and follow with SCN resistant varieties the following year. We have planted susceptible varieties in fields with this level of SCN and have recorded 20 to 50% yield loss.

5. **High**: rotate to a non-host crop for two to three years, then sample SCN to determine if populations have declined to a level where soybeans can be planted again.

Updated information on where to send the samples:

- OSU C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic <u>www.ppdc.osu.edu</u> - follow this link to download forms to go along with the sample
- Brookside Laboratory Inc. www.blinc.com
- Spectrum Analytic Inc.
 <u>www.spectrumanalytic.com</u>

For some additional information on Management of SCN – always check Ohio's SCN fact sheet .

<u>Sampling for Soybean Cyst</u> <u>Nematode – It's time!</u>

Anne Dorrance, Terry Niblack, Horacio Lopez-Nicora

This year's early harvest provides the perfect opportunity to take a look at the SCN populations in your fields. We know that the state is now "polluted" with SCN, fortunately most of those fields are at very low levels – which is where they should be kept. However, there are some surprising locations where individual fields are getting or have gotten into trouble with very high populations. So let's review the loss levels for SCN for the majority of soil types here.

Levels of SCN and concerns

SCN egg Count/100 cc Cyst count Population Level

0-40	0	not detected
40-200	1	trace
200-2000	1-4	low
2000-5000	3-20	moderate
5000 & over	15-20	high

SCN is picky about what it feeds and reproduces on but it does like a few weed hosts and cover crops as well as soybean. If you have SCN in your fields, it is important to also control winter annuals such as purple deadnettle, but also avoid cover crops such as several of the clover's, cowpea and common & hairy vetch.

So it is time to sample! We recommend sampling in the fall – because in most cases this is what the population will be in the spring. With the warmer weather this year and hopefully no frozen ground should give ample time to collect and process the samples in plenty of time for spring planting. Processing of samples does cost time and money, so here are a few thoughts on how to sample or how to target your sampling to get the best information for your money. Through funds from the soybean check-off, we have completed several targeted surveys over the past 5 years. My group tended to target those fields where yields were stuck or below 30 bu/A. Or when we sampled we hit those pockets in the field where the soybeans tended to be shorter or where they matured earlier and always yielded less that the rest of the field. We were able to detect SCN in almost all of these situations, so these are the ones that should have the top priority for sampling.





Southern Ohio Vegetable and Fruit Update

Brad Bergefurd, Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, Scioto County & South Centers

Vegetable, Fruit Field and Harvest

The region has been very dry the past month requiring irrigation of late summer squash, zucchini, cucumber, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and sweet corn plantings. Rains did roll through the area 10/1 through 10/3, with 1 to 3 inches of rainfall being reported. Harvest includes pie and jack-o-lantern pumpkin, gourds, ornamental corn, potato, tomato, pepper, lettuce, greens, radish, beet, turnip, sweet potato, winter squash, zucchini, cantaloupe, watermelon, grapes, summer squash, cucumber, pickles, sweet corn, green beans, apples, day neutral strawberry, and cabbage. Other field operations include fungicide and insecticide applications, ground preparation and planting of cover crops and malting barley, planting of garlic, clean up of hop yards, new hop yard field preparation and trellis installation and construction and planting of new hop yards. High tunnels are being cleaned up and seeded with lettuce, winter greens, radish, carrot and spinach. Downy Mildew continues to be reported on southern Ohio pumpkin, late melon and squash crops.

Growers south of I-70 are reporting jack-o-lantern pumpkin harvests ranging from total crop losses to 70% of a crop. Fruit size seems to be reduced some on these early harvests and there is a split set on early plantings, probably due to high rainfall amounts during the main bloom, making harvest difficult. The market demand for the pumpkin harvest has been strong with higher than average retail and wholesale prices being reported.

Hops

Hop growers continue to prepare new hop fields for fall planting which will continue through mid-October weather dependent. Field operations include deep tillage, deep incorporation of lime and fertilizer, pulling up beds, applying herbicide and laying fabric mulch &drip irrigation, seeding cover crops, soil testing and building high trellis systems

Strawberry

The plasticulture strawberry crop is looking very good with great growth and no problems being reported except a small amount of herbicide damage where the boom sprayer overlapped one bed. Day neutral strawberry harvest has increased with the cooler temperatures with great market demand.



Apple growers are reporting one of Ohio's best crops

Plant of the month- Autumn Crocus

by Gerald Klingaman

On the same day that America received the horrific surprise from the Middle East, the postman delivered a package that had begun its travels from the same part of the world centuries ago. The corms the postman delivered that fateful day were *Crocus speciosus*, the Autumn crocus.

These corms had followed the path of many immigrants, first stopping off in Holland before making their way to our shores.

The Autumn crocus is one of a dozen or more fall-flowering crocuses grown in American gardens. The light blue to violet flowers begin appearing in late September and October and grow 6-8 eight inches tall without a trace of foliage. The flowers are typical of crocus, with six petals, or tepals, forming a narrow tube that extends into the earth.

Perhaps it's a testimony to the harshness of the climate in Turkey, Iran and the mountains of Afghanistan that have kept the womb of the flower, the ovary, below ground. The unpredictable and harsh winter weather can appear early, so the plant has developed the survival strategy of maturing its capsule of seeds below ground and out of the reach of all but the hardest freezes. As the seed ripens, the peduncle elongates and the pods emerge to the surface of the soil.

The fall-flowering characteristic of Autumn crocus is also an adaptation to the harsh climate. Plants blooming in the fall without a trace of leaves usually hail from regions that have prolonged summer droughts. The leaves of Autumn crocus are typical for crocus and appear early in the spring and persist until the heat of summer broils them into submission.

The corm, an underground storage structure constituting a solid, white starchy mass with the buds embedded on the surface in concentric rings, is typical of other members of the iris family such as gladiolus, except for its size. While often referred to as a "bulb" in the jargon of the gardener, it lacks the internal scales seen in onions, daffodils and other such true bulbs.

The name Crocus is from the Greek word *krokos*, which was borrowed from the Semitic word *karkom*. The name did not refer to the familiar spring-blooming species, but to the Saffron Crocus (*C. sativus*), which was used extensively as a die, as an ingredient in cooking and even in embalming rituals.

This plant, so widely sought after in its Mediterranean homeland by the ancients, is now known only in cultivation. It's been harvested to the point of extinction in the wild.

Of the fall blooming crocuses, *C. speciosa* is perhaps the showiest. It should be planted 4-6 inches deep in well prepared, deeply spaded soil. While most crocuses do best in full sun, this species seems to do best in the high shade of oak trees.

While the plant is from a dry, hostile region, it seems to flourish best in a moderately moist site. In the Southern garden, they will increase slowly and eventually naturalize, making them valued citizens of the League of Nations that make up our own gardens.

It can be used in the front of mixed borders as an addition to the lawn or in groundcover beds. At least to my eye, these naked-fall flowering plants look gawky and strange if they're emerging in open ground. A skirt of grass or vinca leaves gives the blooms a point of reference and more effectively displays their delicate beauty.



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The Last Word

I was reflecting on my first year here in Athens County. It has been a very positive experience getting to know everyone and begin to build the program once again. We already have the winter and early spring filled with activities. More plans are being made on a daily basis things are falling into place. I wanted to leave you with the upcoming Master Gardener Volunteer Training schedule with more details to follow.

The introductory class will be on January 20th with regular classes starting on January 27th and finishing on April 6th. These will be Wednesday night classes meeting from 6 PM – 9 PM. This will include two Saturday classes on February 27th and March 19th. Applications will be available at the office or can be e-mailed to you. There will be a required interview with all applicants. This is a 50 hour course and requires the participant to volunteer 50 hours of time to one or more of the multiple Master Gardener projects around the county.



Time to rake the leaves and make a little compost.