

# Currituck Garden News



June 2014

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The Garden News is published to provide you with educational information, upcoming programs and opportunities on gardening issues. Feel free to share with others.

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## Ticks

Warm weather is finally here! It's time to come out of hibernation and enjoy the great outdoors. As we traverse the yard, fields, garden and woods, be ever mindful of ticks. Tick populations increase significantly as we get into June and July. When most people think of ticks, they immediately think of Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). In North Carolina, the American dog tick is the primary transmitter of RMSF and the blacklegged tick is the primary vector of Lyme Disease. Some people may wish to try outdoor chemical treatments such as carbaryl (Sevin), chlorpyrifos (Dursban) or bifenthrin (Talstar) to control ticks in the landscape. Ticks are often down on the soil itself and so a thorough coverage of the soil is needed to impact tick populations. Your best options are going to be a garden hose sprayer attachment or a granular insecticide.

There are several things we can do to protect ourselves from ticks :

- Stay on open paths and trails and stay out of the brush.
- Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to spot ticks making the ascent up your pant leg.
- Wear long pants and tuck the pant legs into your socks.
- Whether you wear shorts or long pants, apply a repellent to your socks and pants or in the case of shorts, only to **exposed** parts of your skin (**not** to skin covered by clothing).
- Check yourself and the rest of your family carefully after working or playing outdoors.
- Check outdoor pets even if you do routinely use some flea and tick product on your pet.



If you do find a tick that's feeding on you, remove it carefully with a pair of tweezers. If possible, keep the tick in a small jar filled with rubbing alcohol for identification. Just because you find a tick on you, doesn't mean it's been feeding, particularly if it's still wandering around. Ticks attach their heads to your skin with a type of "cement" before they feed. Also, not all ticks are actually infected with RMSF or Lyme Disease. A blood test can be done if infection is suspected. The blood test will detect antibodies that develop in response to the pathogen but it can take several weeks for the antibody to reach a detectable level.

Twenty percent or more of the people infected with the Lyme Disease pathogen do not develop the classic "bull's eye" rash. The CDC also reports that 10% of people infected with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever do not develop a characteristic rash either. The best approach is to circle the date of the "tick encounter" on the calendar and if you develop flu-like symptoms, severe headaches or joint pain within the next 3 to 14 days, contact your physician immediately and mention the tick incident. Most doctors will take the cautious route and prescribe antibiotics which when taken early on usually take care of the problem.

## Heat Tolerant Lilacs

When we think of lilacs, most of us envision the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*. Unfortunately, the common lilac we know and love does not do well in the heat we have here in eastern North Carolina (zone 8). Common lilac (or French lilac) is hardy in zones 3b to 7. As a result, these lilacs often become afflicted with powdery mildew and borers.

However, there are some other options. *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim' and *Syringa oblata* var. *dilatata*, a variety of the Korean early lilac, are much better suited for the heat and do rather well here. One of the best groups of lilacs for the piedmont and coastal plain of our state are the cultivars in the *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* group.



Top Left: *Syringa oblata* var. *dilatata*



Top Right: *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Esther Staley'

Bottom: *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim'



## Pruning Calendar

The weather is right for pruning so if you need to trim it back, now is the best time to prune Acuba, Azalea, Barberry, Boxwood, Cytisus (Broom), Japanese Camellia (Winter/Spring Blooming), Daphne, Deutzia, Thorny Eleagnus, Evergreen Euonymus, Forsythia, Evergreen Holly, Indian Hawthorn, Lilac, Mahonia, Mock Orange, Osmanthus, Photinia, Privet (Ligustrum), Pyracantha, Quince, Rhododendron, Spring Blooming Spirea, Viburnum, Weigela, Willow, Witchhazel, and Yew.

For a more comprehensive list of plants and the best time to prune them, see: [http://go.ncsu.edu/pruning\\_calendar](http://go.ncsu.edu/pruning_calendar)



## Lawns

Aerating (Coring) should be done in early summer when the grass is actively growing. June is also a good time to dethatch if necessary. If white grubs have been a problem, imidacloprid (Bayer Grub Control or Scotts Grubex) can be used in June and July to prevent Japanese Beetle eggs from hatching in mid-August. If crabgrass has emerged, apply a postemergence herbicide. Two or 3 applications may be necessary. Be sure the product you chose is labeled for crabgrass control and safe for your type of lawn.

For more information about lawns see: [http://go.ncsu.edu/nc\\_lawns](http://go.ncsu.edu/nc_lawns)

## Vegetable Garden

The window has closed for planting most vegetables. In June we can still plant Snap and Lima Beans, Southern Peas, and Tomato plants. But don't worry because there will be plenty of fall crops we can plant starting in July.

For a Vegetable Planting Guide see:



[http://go.ncsu.edu/spring\\_vege\\_guide](http://go.ncsu.edu/spring_vege_guide)

## Bagworms

Bagworms are now hatching. You can find the tiny caterpillars anywhere there are bags left from last year. These pests overwinter as eggs within the mother's bag. Larvae emerge from the bag during the months of May and June. Once they have emerged, they crawl or drift via a silk strand to nearby foliage where they begin to feed. Bagworms feed on plant foliage and can cause a significant amount of damage in a relatively short period of time. The young caterpillars produce a silk bag on their posterior end that gradually collects bits and pieces of plant material as they feed. This creates a leafy bag that camouflages them as plant tissue. One of the most effective methods of treatment is handpicking or cutting the female pupae bags from tree branches. Chemical control options should be applied while the caterpillars are young, typically during June and early July. Bt (Dipel), bifenthrin, or spinosad (Conserve) can be used.



Top Left: Young Bagworm with a new silk bag.

Bottom Left: Adult Male Bagworm

Center: Bagworm Damage

Top Right: Bagworm eggs in mother's bag.

Bottom Right: Silk bag with a bagworm inside.



## Lecanium Scale

Oak Lecanium scale eggs are present now under adult scale covers and crawlers are beginning to hatch. The crawler stage should be targeted for best results. On trees small enough to treat foliage, horticultural oil can be used. On larger trees, a systemic such as dinotefuran (Safari) or imidacloprid (Bayer Tree & Shrub) can be applied as a soil drench. Lecanium scales produce honeydew that can cause sooty mold on oaks or plants below. Large populations can reduce growth and vitality especially in newly planted trees.



Top: Lecanium scale eggs.



Left: Lecanium scale

For additional information on any of the contents of this newsletter call or e-mail Debbie Kelso at 232-2262, [deborah\\_kelso@ncsu.edu](mailto:deborah_kelso@ncsu.edu)

Deborah E. Kelso  
Agricultural Technician

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For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the Currituck County Center at 252-232-2262 no later than five business days prior to the event.

## **Coastal NC Daylily Society**



The next meeting for the Coastal NC Daylily Society will take place on June 10, 2014 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held at NC Cooperative Extension Currituck County Center on Hwy 158 in Barco.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

For more information contact Debbie Kelso 252-232-2262 or [Deborah\\_kelso@ncsu.edu](mailto:Deborah_kelso@ncsu.edu).

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