



Western Kentucky Nursery Crop Update

Airblast Sprayer Workshop

The University of Tennessee Nursery Crops Program and Pro-Gro Nursery are hosting an Airblast Sprayer Workshop on Wednesday, May 4th in McMinnville, TN. The workshop will feature airblast sprayer experts Dr. Heping Zhu, USDA-ARS and Randy Zondag, OSU-Lake County Extension. Topics will include: airblast sprayer calibration, nozzle disc and whirl selections and

positioning, canopy penetration and coverage, and how to achieve optimum spray droplet size and distribution specific to insect and disease control. Two pesticide points are offered in each of the following categories: C1, C2, C3, C10, and C12. Registration is required. \$15 per person if received on or before April 30, lunch included. \$25 if received May 1 or later, lunch not guaranteed.

If you have any questions, contact: Mark Halcomb, Warren County Extension Office, 931-473-8484. Make out check to: Warren County Extension. Mail checks and registration to: Warren Co. Extension, Attn: Nursery Workshop, 201 Locust St., Suite #10, McMinnville, TN 37110. Do not fax registration forms.

Pear Fire Blight Alert

Dr. John Hartman recently sent out this warning to growers of Pear:

“Pears have been in bloom for more than a week in many parts of Kentucky. Fire blight primary infections occur through the open flowers. A Fire Blight prediction model called Cougarblight, developed at Washington State University, can be used to determine if weather conditions have been favorable for fire blight infection.

There was a potential fire blight infection event this past weekend in some regions of the state. Mesonet weather stations located in counties west of a line between Logan and Ohio Counties reported fire blight favorable weather on the days leading up to April 4, when infection risks were high (but not severe). Infection risks were also high in a few eastern Kentucky counties (Lawrence, Johnson, and Breathitt). Fire blight risks during this same time period were marginal for the rest of the state.

Where pears are still in bloom, growers will want to continue with streptomycin sprays. If observed early enough, infected flower/fruit spurs can be broken out to reduce threats of secondary infections and spread to nearby apples which are in bloom or soon will be, depending on location.”

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We Grow Ideas

Topics Needed!

The University of Kentucky Nursery Crops team has taken on the task of producing short educational films about important practices to the nursery crop industry. These films are intended to train new employees in established businesses as well as new growers to our industry. If you have a topic that you want to see in action, please contact us. We will also take any volunteers who think they have something important they can demonstrate to their peers. These films will be found on YouTube by searching for [UKRECHort](#).



UK Nursery Crops Welcomes New Associate

The UK Nursery Crops Group is pleased to announce that the Kentucky Horticulture Council / Agriculture Development Fund grant-funded Extension Associate for Nursery Crops position for Central KY has been filled by Sarah Vanek. Sarah has a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska and Master of Science in Entomology from the University of Kentucky. Her honors include Summa Cum

Laude and Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding M.S. Student which recognized her innovative research in biological control, her leadership in organizing a scientific symposium and giving several invited scientific presentations, extension teaching for horticultural industries, and her outreach and service to youth education and the community.

The position she is filling was formerly held by Amy Fulcher and focuses

on assisting farmers adding or modifying nursery crop production on their farms. Sarah can be contacted by e-mail, sarah.vanek@uky.edu or phone, 859.257.1273.

