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Tomato Growers Take Note, Late Blight is Early this Year

Late blight, a plant disease that can kill tomato plants, has been found on North Carolina tomatoes in the growing season this year than usual, according to a Cooperative Extension plant pathologist at North Carolina State University. Late blight was found several weeks ago on tomatoes in Latham and Sampson counties and on July 3 in Henderson County, said Dr. Kelly Ivors, associate professor of plant pathology and North Carolina Cooperative Extension specialist. Ivors speculated that the plant disease showed up earlier this year because this spring was usually warm.

While commercial tomato growers are generally aware of the presence of late blight and are taking measures to combat the disease, Ivors said home gardeners may also want to be aware of the disease. Ivors pointed out that prevention, applying a fungicide or other treatment to tomato plants before they are infected, is the best course of action when it comes to late blight. Ivors said plant protection products containing the active ingredients copper or chlorothalonil offer the only effective protection for the home gardener against late blight. Ready-to-use formulations of products containing either of these active ingredients are available at garden centers and stores such as Home Depot or Lowes.

While there are a few tomato varieties that are resistant to late blight, Ivors added, heirloom tomatoes, which many home gardeners like to grow, are not resistant to the disease. Late blight, which also attacks potatoes, is caused by a fungus-like organism called *Phytophthora infestans*. The pathogen is best known for causing the devastating Irish potato famine of the 1840s, which killed over a million people, and caused another million to leave the country. The pathogen likes cool, wet weather. Clouds protect the spores from exposure to UV radiation, while wet conditions allow the spores to infect when they land on leaves. Late blight can be a particular problem in western North Carolina, where nights are cool and fog or heavy dew can help spread the disease.

Ivors said lesions will appear on a plant's leaves within three to five days of infection, followed by a white cottony growth on the underside of leaves. The cottony growth is evidence that the pathogen is producing spores. Spores may be spread by wind and rain and can be blown several miles, where they may land on other plants and start a new cycle of infection. The disease eventually defoliates and kills the plant.

Ivors said home gardeners who want to see the fruit on their tomato plants turn ripe and red may want to consider protecting those plants now. Once plants show signs of late blight, she added, the best option may be to harvest the fruit, even if it's green, and learn how to make fried green tomatoes.

Remembering.....

By Ed McBride



Modern Technology!!

Do you remember when a brand new 1929 Dodge car cost less than \$600? Even in the early 1930's it still cost about the same. Of course none of these cars had a V8 engine, nor did they have air conditioning (most were lucky to have a heater), electric windows, cruise control (what was that???)...nor did the folks in rural areas have telephones.

I can remember my granddaddy wanted a telephone, and he was told "up front" that he would have to build his own line to the main line that was located on the Grassy Island Road. He would have to maintain the line too - which he did for many years!!

I can't help thinking back to those days, when I see every day now so many phones, gadgets, etc. that make us stop and think of all the modern technology. Nowadays a modern phone can be as little as a pack of cigarettes - as compared to my granddaddy's phone which was made of solid oak wood. It was about 2 feet tall and bolted to the wall in the hallway - nothing but a phone to call the operator who then "tried to get you were calling!!"

And, as Allen said last week, he can't remember "all that." Oh well, nor is he near my age!!

I do remember the old car above. It was at a car show that we stopped to see in 1993, I think!

Ed

Getting Your Car Ready for Vacation

Many people are planning their family vacation. For most, that means a long car ride. Before you hit the road, there are some things you need to do. First, make sure someone knows the route you are taking and when you will arrive and have your cell phone and charger with you. Since you will be carrying the most precious cargo, your family, you need to make sure your car is up for the trip. Start by checking your tires. They should be inflated properly and have plenty of tread. Then check to make sure your lights are working properly and your brakes are good.

Then, open the hood and examine all the hoses and belts. Replace any that have cracks or are worn. Next, check all the fluids in your car. Any fluids that are dirty should be flushed and replaced. If the color of the oil is brown or milky, it means that coolant is getting into one or more cylinders in the engine. This is a serious problem and needs to be fixed immediately. If you do not fix it, you run the risk of blowing the engine.

If you are uncomfortable about taking the car on a long trip, this is the time to replace it. A car dealer will not want your current car since it has a major problem. One excellent alternative is to donate your car to charity. Cars4Charities does not care about its condition and will pick it up for free. You will get a very nice tax deduction for your car donation. Simple call them a 1-866-448-3487 or go to www.cars4charities.org.

Local Students Named to UNC-G Dean's List

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro recently announced those students who have been named to the Dean's List and the Chancellor's List for demonstrating outstanding academic achievement during the spring 2012 semester. The Dean's List requires a GPA of 3.5 or better with no grade below a B- for the semester for students who have completed at least six credit hours at UNCG. The Chancellor's List requires a cumulative GPA of 3.65 or higher for currently enrolled full time students who have completed 30 or more semester hours at UNCG.

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Thomas Edwards and Rebeckah Pace Intern in Washington D.C.

Two local students, Thomas Edwards and Rebeckah Pace recently spent a week in Washington, D.C. working as interns for the US House of Representatives. The students arrived in Washington on June 10, and were able to work directly with Congressman Larry Kissel.

"We want to give many thanks to the Wadesboro Rotary Club and the many people who generously donated money to fund our trip," said Edwards. "Also, thank you to Doug Zywiol, a great teacher at Anson High School, who is the Rotary Interact Advisor. We would not have been able to make the trip without him."

During the trip Thomas and Rebeckah were able to experience the very fast paced environment that surrounds Washington politics. They were given individualized assignments to complete, and were able to attend the case hearings of US Attorney General Eric Holder for his failure to deliver documents to the US Justice System of the Federal and Eric Holder trial.

"We both analyzed the case, finding many interesting facts and realities," said Rebeckah. Thomas concluded by saying, "We mainly would like thank the generous donors again for giving us this opportunity."



Thomas Edwards (left) and Rebeckah Pace (far right) recently served as interns in Washington, D.C.

SPCC Offers Seminar Series for Small Businesses

South Piedmont Community College's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Center is offering a series of two-hour workshops on four consecutive Mondays. Each will be from 6 to 8 p.m. at Radius Law Group, 1000 Van Buren Ave., Suite E, Indian Trail. All four seminars are free.

The schedule is as follows:

- July 16 - Small Business Strategic Planning: How to Plan Take Your Business to the Next Level. Presenter, David Feldman of Advicoach.
- July 23 - Small Business Strategic Planning: How to Make Your Personal and Business Tax Strategies Work Together. Presenter, David Paulsen of Paulsen CPA.
- July 30 - Small Business Retirement and Succession Planning: How to Plan for Retirement and Protect the Business You've Built. Presenter, Gordon Pettit of First Command Financial.
- Aug. 6 - Small Business Legal Traps: How to Avoid the Most Common Business Law Mistakes. Presenter, Nathan Workman, Radius Law Group.

To register, e-mail Dan Merle, director of SPCC's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Center, at dmerle@spcc.edu with your name, phone number and seminar title(s).




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