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FOR THE WEEK OF July 11, 2005

Walnut Toxicity and Tomatoes

Black walnut trees produce a toxic material (juglone) that can injure and kill crops like tomatoes, potatoes, peppers and eggplant and other juglone-sensitive vegetables in the garden. Symptoms of walnut toxicity include stunted growth, yellowing and wilting of foliage, and death of susceptible plants. Juglone is present in all parts of the black walnut tree (fruits, leaves, branches and roots). The sources of juglone in the soil include both living and decaying plant material. Rain droplets leach juglone from the buds, leaves, and twigs. The decomposition of leaves and other plant debris by soil microorganisms also releases juglone. Living roots exude juglone into the surrounding soil. Generally, the greatest concentration of juglone in the soil exists within the dripline of walnut trees. Nothing can be done to save juglone-damaged tomato plants. Simply remove and destroy dead plants. Gardeners who have large walnut trees near their gardens should consider alternate sites.

Farm Safety Video Now Available in Spanish

A farm safety video created by Iowa State University Extension is now available in Spanish. This hour-long video is a part of the agricultural equipment operators' safety series. It is available on video or DVD and contains seven segments providing information on the basic steps of safe operation of a tractor and other agricultural equipment. We have this video at our Howard county office as part of our video library. This widely used video supports the tractor certification program. If you wish to purchase the English or Spanish versions of the video, contact Lisa Scarbrough at (515) 294-4972 or lscarb@iastate.edu. The VHS or DVD is \$25, plus shipping. Cash, check, Visa or MasterCard will be accepted for payment.

High Dairy Cows: Junes summary of Howard County DHIA records.

Here are the top five cows for fat-corrected milk as reported by the Howard County DHIA.

Herd Owner	Barnname	Milk	Fat	Protein	Fat Corrected Milk
Malven, Tony & Bonnie	00SADIE H	34501	2440		38113
Martin, Mervin	25 H	40481	2278		35893
Martin, James	000Opal H	34030	2412		35849
Martin, Mervin	27 H	36247	2216		34794
KDS Dairy Farm	000w101 H	33433	2247		34049