



## FARM AND HOME NEWS



**CHARLIE BAIER, Iowa State University Howard County Extension Education Director**

**FOR THE WEEK OF October 10, 2005**

### **Creeping Charlie**

Ground Ivy (also called creeping Charlie) is a common weed in many lawns. It is a low-growing, creeping invasive perennial. It spreads by seed and the vine stems which root at their nodes. Ground Ivy thrives in damp, shady areas, but grows well in sunny areas. Control of ground ivy in the lawn is very difficult. If it is not completely destroyed, surviving portions will continue to grow and spread. Recent research found that herbicide products containing 2,4-D or triclopyr will help control ground ivy. Between Mid-September and November 1 is a good time to do this. Two applications are most effective. The second application should be made about 28 days after the first. Sometimes it takes a few years to gain control of ground ivy in a lawn.

### **Soybean Cyst Nematodes:**

Now is the time to plan on testing your soils for soybean cyst nematodes. When taking soil samples for fertility, split a sample and have the lab do a test for Soybean Cyst Nematodes. The results will help you plan for next years soybean seed.

### **Bell Peppers**

If your garden is like mine, it is just full of Bell peppers at this time of year. Bell peppers are usually harvested when large and firm in the immature green stage. Fully ripe bell peppers are slightly sweeter and have higher vitamin content than the immature green peppers. However, the longer they are in the garden the greater the chance that they will be damaged by bugs or weather. Fresh peppers may be storied for up to 3 weeks in cool moist conditions (45 to 50 F and 85-90 percent relative humidity). If you are thinking about freezing your peppers and need information, we have a publication called Freezing Fruits and Vegetables PM 1045 available at our office.