Crops are in the ground for the most part and emerging nicely as we head into June, and the recent rains will hopefully encourage some good, strong growth! School is out and summer is in full swing. As crops continue to grow. Have a wonderful summer.

-Amanda Oloff, Associate Extension Educator

**Upcoming Events:**

- June 2nd- FSQA training
- June 10th - Farm Safety Day
- June 21st – Western Iowa No-Till Field Day
- July 10,12th-18th- Shelby County Fair
- July 19th- Weeks Week Field Day
- July 28th- Home Demonstration Garden Field Day

**Dealing with Spring Pests in Fruit Trees**

**The leaves on my peach tree are puckered and reddish in color. What is the problem?**

The symptoms are those of peach leaf curl. The disease is caused by the fungus Taphrina deformans. Infections occur as the peach tree buds begin to swell in spring.

A single fungicide application will control peach leaf curl. Fungicides, such as chlorothalonil, should be applied in fall after leaf drop or in late March before the buds begin to swell. To achieve control, all branches and twigs must be thoroughly sprayed.

**A small greenish worm is eating the foliage on my cherry tree. What should I do?**

The greenish worm is probably the pear slug. The pear slug is not an actual slug. It’s the larval stage of an insect (sawfly). The pear slug feeds on pear, cherry, plum and several other woody plants.

The slug-like larvae are yellow but usually appear olive green or black because of a covering of secreted slime. The mature “slug” is about 1/4 to 3/8 inch long. Larvae feed on the leaves for about four weeks. When full grown the larvae drop to the ground, burrow into the soil and pupate. Adult sawflies emerge in May and June (first generation) and late July and August (second generation). After mating, female sawflies insert eggs into the leaf surfaces of suitable plant hosts. The eggs hatch in one to two weeks.

The larvae feed on the upper surface of leaves, eating the tissue between the leaf veins, but leaving the veins themselves. (This feeding pattern is known as skeletonization.) Leaves that are heavily fed upon

**DID YOU KNOW??**

Ag and Hort Update is also available online!! The current and past issues are archived on our county homepage: www.extension.iastate.edu/Shelby. Online newsletters also contain active links to get you to websites and publications mentioned in the articles! Contact me to be added to our email list.

**Ask the ISU Garden Expert**

Get answers to all your yard and garden questions at www.yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu. For specific questions, call the Hortline at (515) 294-3108, or email hortline@iastate.edu, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
by the larvae turn brown, as only the veins and a thin layer of tissue remains on the leaves. Heavily damaged leaves may drop from the tree. Fortunately, pear slugs seldom cause serious damage to healthy, well-established trees. Pear slugs are easily controlled with insecticidal soap, neem oil, bifenthrin, carbaryl, malathion, permethrin, spinosad or other general landscape insecticide sprays.

**There are caterpillars and tent-like structures in the crotches of my apple tree. How do I get rid of them?**

The caterpillars are likely eastern tent caterpillars. Eastern tent caterpillars emerge in late April and early May from eggs that were laid on small twigs last summer by female moths. The caterpillars feed on the buds and foliage of apple, crabapple, wild plum, cherry and similar trees. On cloudy, rainy days and at night, the caterpillars remain in the protective confines of their tent. On warm sunny days, they go out and feed on the tree’s buds and foliage. Tents are initially small, but are gradually enlarged as the caterpillars feed and grow in size. The caterpillars are full grown about six weeks after hatching.

While eastern tent caterpillars may defoliate branches or portions of a tree, they do not seriously harm most healthy, well-established trees. The defoliated branches will leaf out again in a few weeks. Trees may be seriously weakened if heavily defoliated in several consecutive years.

Damage to trees can be minimized by removing and destroying the tents and caterpillars as soon as they are noticed. Tent removal should be done in early morning, late evening, or on cool rainy days when the caterpillars are gathered in their tents. The tents and caterpillars can be removed with a broomstick, forked branch or by hand.

Do not attempt to burn the tents and caterpillars. This is a dangerous procedure that may injure the tree.

It is seldom necessary to control eastern tent caterpillars with insecticides. If insecticides are used, they should be applied when the caterpillars are small. Insecticides are less effective on mature caterpillars. Spray the tree’s foliage within two feet of the tents. (Tents are water repellent so spraying them with water based insecticides are not very effective.) Effective insecticides include Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel, Thuricide, etc.) and carbaryl (Sevin).


**Lets talk Lawn care!**

**How often should I fertilize my lawn?**

In Iowa, Kentucky bluegrass lawns can be fertilized in spring (April or May), mid-September, and late October/early November. The number of fertilizer applications is largely determined by an individual’s desires or expectations for their lawn.

Three applications of fertilizer (the first in spring, the second in mid-September and a third in late October/early November) would be appropriate for individuals who want a vigorous, dark green lawn. A single application of fertilizer in late October/early November would be sufficient for individuals who prefer minimal fertilization. A moderate fertilization plan consists of an application of fertilizer in mid-September and a second application in late October/early November.

Each application of fertilizer should consist of one pound of actual
When mowing the lawn, what is the proper mowing height?

Kentucky bluegrass lawns should be mowed at a height of 2½ to 3 inches in the spring and fall months. Mow bluegrass lawns at a height of 3 to 3½ inches in June, July and August. A higher mowing height in summer helps to cool the crowns of the turfgrass plants, encourages deeper rooting and provides more leaf area for photosynthesis during the stressful summer months.

Mowing below the recommended range may scalp the turf and cause the turfgrass to deteriorate. Extremely low mowing heights decrease the total leaf surface area, carbohydrate reserves and root growth, creating a situation where the turfgrass plants are unable to produce enough food to meet their needs. This makes the plants more susceptible to drought, high temperature and wear injury. In addition, the bare areas created by a decrease in turfgrass density increase the likelihood of weed problems.

Mowing too high can also create problems. Mowing above the recommended range reduces tillering and causes matting of the grass. Reduced tillering results in fewer and coarser plants, while matted grass creates a micro-environment that encourages disease development.

When should I apply preemergence herbicide to my lawn to control crabgrass?

The keys to successful control of crabgrass in lawns are correct timing of the preemergence herbicide application and proper application of the material. Preemergence herbicides must be applied before the crabgrass seeds germinate. If the material is applied too early, crabgrass seeds that germinate late in the season will not be controlled. If applied too late, some crabgrass seeds will have already germinated.

Preemergence herbicides should normally be applied in early to mid-April in southern Iowa, mid-April to May 1 in central Iowa and late April to early May in northern areas of the state. Weather often varies considerable from year to year in Iowa. Accordingly, gardeners should make adjustments in the timing of the preemergence herbicide application. If the weather in March and April is cooler than normal (such as in 2013), apply the preemergence herbicide late in the recommended time period. Apply the herbicide early in the recommended time period if Iowa is experiencing a warm early spring. If you’re still uncertain as to when to apply the preemergence herbicide, Mother Nature provides some helpful (colorful) clues. Preemergence herbicides should be applied when the forsythia blossoms start dropping or when redbud trees begin to bloom. Crabgrass seed germination typically begins after these events.

To insure the herbicide is applied properly, carefully read and follow the label directions on the package. Also, make sure the spreader has been correctly calibrated and is working properly.

For more information on Lawn Care, go to: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/2013-yardgarden-lawn-care

Row Crops

Please welcome New Field Agronomist, Michael Witt has joined Iowa State University Extension and Outreach’s crops team as a field agronomist the university announced today. Witt will be working in Audubon, Crawford, Guthrie, Harrison and Shelby counties.

Witt will also provide assistance to three Iowa State University Research and Demonstration Farms,
providing agronomic crop, plot and on-farm trial support in Boone, Castana and Greenfield.

“Growing up in north central Iowa, I have always had great respect for the work that Iowa State Extension and Outreach personnel do in bringing education and learning opportunities to all Iowans,” Witt said. “I look forward to working with people across my region and the state to bring the new and exciting educational opportunities to their local communities.”

Witt, who holds a Bachelor of Agriculture Education degree from Iowa State University and is pursuing a master’s in Agronomy, has an extensive and diverse background in agriculture.

“Mike is an Iowa State alum with a varied background that includes industry research and on-farm demonstrations,” said Erin Hodgson, associate professor and extension entomologist and crops team leader at Iowa State University. “He is a great addition to the crops team and we look forward to him helping continue to grow ISU Extension and Outreach.”

Witt spent 11 years at DuPont Pioneer, working as a part of the field program management team. Witt’s primary areas of emphasis were inbred discovery and hybrid evaluation, proprietary herbicide development and molecular corn evaluation.

He served as a testing site lead at Beck’s Superior Hybrids for one year, working on the company’s maize and soybean yield testing program with his duties encompassing territory in Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri.

### Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

Drier conditions allowed farmers to make good progress with 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork statewide during the week ending May 22, 2016, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were scattered reports of corn being replanted in the northern third of Iowa.

Topsoil moisture levels increased to 0 percent very short, 5 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short, 3 percent short, 85 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus.

Ninety-six percent of the corn crop has been planted, 2 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the 5-year average. Corn emerged reached 75 percent, on pace with last year, but 4 days ahead of normal. The first corn condition rating of the season was 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Soybean planting reached 74 percent complete, almost a week ahead of last year. Twenty-one percent of the soybeans have emerged, 2 days behind last year, but equal to the 5-year average. Oat emergence was nearly complete at 96 percent, while oats headed reached 11 percent this week, 11 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the 5-year average. Oat condition was rated 80 percent good to excellent.

### Field Work and Crop Progress as of May 22, 2016

<table>
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<th>Item (Percent)</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corn planted</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn emerged</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>63</td>
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<td>98</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans planted</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on crop progress, go to:  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

### Western Iowa No Till Field Day

**June 21st** at Carstens Farmstead, more detail to come.
Weeds Week 2016

Educational programs for farmers and retailers with a focus on understanding weed resistance and a hands-on, practical approach to developing long-term weed management plans that work.

Goals of Weeds Week programs
- Evaluate the herbicide sites of action that are effective on the weeds present
- Develop a long-term weed management plan that can be implemented the following year
- Understand the importance of cultural and mechanical options in a diverse program
- Recognize the importance of developing field-specific management programs.

Each session is a combination of presentations, small group discussions, problem solving, and hands-on planning through a series of worksheets and materials developed for Weeds Week. Sessions are led by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Field Agronomists. There are five locations around the state. Each location will also feature tours of demonstration plots established to support the goals and objectives of the Weeds Week program. The Southwest Iowa Weeds Week program will be at the Armstrong Research farm, on July 19th.

For more information on the Weeds Week, visit http://www.aep.iastate.edu/weeds/

Home Demonstration Garden Field Day

Each year Iowa State University Research and Demonstration Farms plant seven demonstration gardens around the state to showcase home vegetable gardening. This year’s garden themes are donating produce to food banks and planting for pollinators.

The gardens are supported throughout the summer by Master Gardener volunteers who harvest and deliver fresh produce to local food banks. The seven demonstration gardens measure 80 x 40 feet. One quarter of each garden is planted with plants such as milkweed for pollinator habitat.

“We hope each garden harvests over 1,000 pounds of vegetables,” said Cindy Haynes, associate professor and extension specialist in horticulture at Iowa State University. “If we reach our goal this could amount to over 30,000 servings of vegetables to Iowans in need.”

2016 Demonstration Garden Field Days
- Rock Rapids (Lyon County Fairgrounds, S. Tama Street and S. 5th Ave, Rock Rapids) - July 19 at 6 p.m.
- Armstrong Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm (53020 Hitchcock Ave., Lewis) - July 28 at 6:30 p.m.
- Northern Research and Demonstration Farm (310 S. Main Street, Kanawha) - Aug. 2 at 6 p.m.
- Horticulture Research Station (55519 170th Street, Ames) - Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m.
- Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm (3321 290th Street, Nashua) - Aug. 6 at 4 p.m.
- Muscatine Island Research and Demonstration Farm (111 North Street, Fruitland) - Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
- Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm (3115 Louisa-Washington Road, Crawfordsville) - Aug. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on Demonstration Garden Field Days to, http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/july-and-august-home-demonstration-garden-field-days-0

Farmland Leasing Meeting

Has been set for August 2nd at the Shelby County Extension Office, more details to come.