

# The Lower Alabama Grower

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## Extension Office Notices:

- Office Hours  
7:30am-4:00pm
- Office Closed  
November 24-26  
December 20-31  
January 17

## Botryosphaeria Stem Blight (*Botryosphaeria dothidea*)

On September 5<sup>th</sup> of this year I received confirmation that this fungus is in South-west Alabama. I immediately contacted Dr. Elina Coneva about this. According to Dr. Coneva, "This seems to be a wide spread problem through the state. The survey conducted this May confirmed the Botryosphaeria distribution in seven Alabama locations. The average infection rate was 83%. This includes rabbiteye and southern highbush cultivars."

Botryosphaeria stem blight, commonly referred to as dieback, is a prevalent and destructive disease of blueberries in the southeastern United States.

### **Symptoms:**

Early symptoms are yellowing, reddening or drying of leaves on one or more branches.

The internal wood of infected stems is discolored brown or tan, frequently on only one side of the stem. The necrotic area may extend just a few centimeters or the entire length of the stem. Twig infections may be confused with winter injury or other twig diseases. Younger plants die rapidly within 1 to 2 years of planting. The mortality rate is highest when infection develops at or near the crown.

### **Disease Cycle:**

The stem blight fungus overwinters in infected stems. Most infections occur during the early part of the growing season - May or June; however inoculum is present almost year-round in the southern states. Wounds caused by pruning, mechanical injury, or other stem diseases are the primary sites of infection. Disease development decreases as wounds heal with time.

### **Management:**

Plant resistant cultivars; use disease-free planting material; cut off infected canes 15 to 20 cm below any sign of diseased wood and destroy. Heavy pruning should be delayed until the dormant season. In general, fungicides have not proven to be effective.

## The Alabama IPM Communicator

The Alabama IPM Communicator is coordinated by Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, “Dr. A”, to provide readers information about IPM and other major crop issues through a single publication. This is a weekly report (May to October) with information arranged into different sections ranging from IPM in home garden to IPM in field crops. Readers can download or view the newsletter at ACES website

([www.aces.edu/go/128](http://www.aces.edu/go/128)).

To subscribe, please email [bugdoctor@auburn.edu](mailto:bugdoctor@auburn.edu). Once your name is added to the list, you will get a welcome message from the IPM COMM Listserv.

### Citrus Red Mites

On October 20<sup>th</sup> I received confirmation of Citrus Red Mites on Satsumas. The symptoms observed in the orchard were yellowing of the leaves followed by leaf drop. Some of the trees experienced severe defoliation and some stem dye back. Scout your trees for this pest and treat appropriately. You will need a magnifying glass 10X or greater to see them.

#### Citrus Red Mites

puncture leaf cells and remove chlorophyll & nutrients—reducing photosynthesis. Populations are usually most problematic in late winter and spring,

Caution: Please always read and rely on all pesticide labels. Using oils too early in the winter can reduce cold tolerance of target plants resulting in winter injury.

declining as heat and humidity increases in early summer.

**Control:** Scout by sampling 4-5 leaves from each quadrant/direction (16-20 leaves/tree), 10-20 trees per grove (depending on size). Action Threshold: 50% infested leaves or 2 motile (moving) mites/leaf. What to Spray: 435 Oil, which is effective at 2% solution (2 gal/100 gal water) on low to moderate populations. For high populations, a miticide such as Vendex (4-8 oz/100 gal water), Portal (4 pts/Acre or 1/2 tsp/gal), or Envidor (12-20 oz/Acre) may be

needed.

### Winter Sanitation

This time of year it is really easy to be lazy or get preoccupied with fun activities like hunting and fishing, but we need to clean up the orchard, vegetable fields, and landscape. Sanitation is one step of the IPM concept that can help reduce pest pressure with little monetary input. Remove all leftover fruits or vegetables that may serve as a food source for overwintering insects or inoculum for diseases. Weeds in the field or area directly adjacent to crop areas will serve as alternate host and shelter for

them also. Leaf and stem litter in the field can also serve as possible source of disease and insect carry over into the next growing season. Take the time to clean and clear this debris and weeds from your crop areas.

Don't forget to clean the pruning equipment. You can use alcohol or 10% bleach to eliminate the risk of spreading disease via pruning. Once the cleaning is done it is important to dry and oil them to prevent rust.

#### Hot Links

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

<http://www.aces.edu/>

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries

<http://agi-app.alabama.gov/>

Alabama F & V Growers Association

<http://www.aces.edu/department/associations/afvga/>

Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association

<http://www.alnla.org/>

Alabama Pecan Growers Association

<http://www.alabamapecangrowers.com/>

Chill Hour Totals

<http://www.aces.edu/dept/peaches/peachipm/mesonet/>

Commercial Vegetable Production

[http://www.aces.edu/department/com\\_veg/](http://www.aces.edu/department/com_veg/)

Evans Christmas Products and Grower Supplies

<http://www.evanschristmas.com/evansc/Default.asp>



## Upcoming Events

### Hot Links Continued

Extension Blueberries

<http://www.extension.org/blueberries>

Extension Fire Ants

<http://www.extension.org/fire+ants>

Farm Service Agency

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/sta/teoffapp?mystate=al&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

Greenhouse Tomato Handbook (MSU)

<http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p1828.pdf>

IPM Communicator

Alabama Turfgrass Association  
<http://www.alaturfgrass.org/>

Insect Trap Supplies

<http://www.alphascents.com/>

Irrigation Mart

<http://www.irrigation-mart.com/>

J & M Industries (Packaging supplies)

<http://www.jm-ind.com/>

Peach IPM

<http://www.aces.edu/dept/peaches/peachipm/index.html>

Small Fruit Production Guides

<http://www.smallfruits.org/SmallFruitsRegGuide/index.htm>

South Alabama Nursery Association

<http://southana.org/>

### January

- 13<sup>th</sup> Restricted Use and Worker Protection Standards Pesticide Ed. Meeting, 8:00 AM – Noon  
Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile
- 14<sup>th</sup> Restricted Use and Worker Protection Standards Pesticide Ed. Meeting, 8:00 AM – Noon  
Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Gulf States Horticultural Expo  
Arthur Outlaw Convention Center, Downtown Mobile  
<http://www.alnla.org/>
- 27<sup>th</sup> Gulf Coast Fruit & Vegetable Meeting, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM; Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile

### February

- 15<sup>th</sup> Pruning Demonstration, 9:00 AM – Noon  
Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Alabama F & V Meeting  
Auburn University Student Center, Auburn
- 24<sup>th</sup> Horticulture Series - Soils, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile

### March

- 7<sup>th</sup> Vegetable & Pecan Production Meeting, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM; Central Alabama Farmers Coop, 2519 US. Hwy 80 W, Selma
- 8<sup>th</sup> Blueberry Workshop, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Clarke County Extension Office, 120 Court Street  
Grove Hill
- 9<sup>th</sup> Citrus & Pecan Production Meeting, 9:00 AM – Noon  
Auburn University Natural Resources Education Center, 1221 County Road 14, Camden
- 10<sup>th</sup> Citrus & Pecan Production Meeting, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
USDA Service Center, 334 Agriculture Drive, Suite 104, Monroeville
- 19<sup>th</sup> Home Food Production, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope

## Upcoming Events Continued

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Citrus & Pecan Production Meeting, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br>Choctaw County Extension Office, 218 S. Hamburg Street, Butler  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Blueberry Workshop, 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM<br>David L. Burt Agriculture Center, 102 Liberty St, Room 103, Evergreen  |
| 31 <sup>th</sup> | Horticulture Series – Vegetables, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br>Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile   |
| <b>April</b>     |   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Tomato Workshop; 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM<br>Scott House, Hwy. 56, Chatom (1/2 mile past Washington County Infirmary)  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Raised Bed Workshop and Demonstration, 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM<br>Brewton Agricultural Research Unit, 2067 Kirkland Road, Brewton   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Horticulture Series – Turf, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br>Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile   |
| <b>May</b>       |   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Horticulture Series – Entomology, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br>Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile   |
| <b>June</b>      |   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Farm Market Day, 8:00 AM – Noon<br>2245 Halls Mill Road, Mobile   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Horticulture Series – Blueberries, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br>Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile  |
| <b>July</b>      |   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Soil Solarization Demonstration, 7:00 PM -8:30 PM<br>Brewton Agricultural Research Unit, 2067 Kirkland Road, Brewton  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Horticulture Series – Citrus, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br>Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile   |
| <b>September</b> |   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Greenspace (Nursery/Greenhouse, Landscape & Turf Professionals) IPM Conference<br>8:00 AM – 1:00 PM<br>Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N, Mobile |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Pecan Meeting, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM<br>Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope  |

## Pheromone Traps for Detecting and Monitoring Major Insect Pests of Crops

By Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Extension Entomologist and Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator

The science of insect detection and monitoring using pheromone traps has now become a practical and affordable tool for crop producers. Pheromones are chemical signals that are emitted in small amounts by insects that stimulate the opposite sex of the same species. Thus, insect catches from various kinds of traps indicate mate-searching behavior, distribution and population density of a species. Remember also that pest detection, correct identification and monitoring are the basic steps of an integrated pest management (IPM) approach. Number one reason of crop failure, especially in vegetables, is the lack of the ability of farmers to detect the insects in a timely manner. Insect pheromone traps have the big advantage that traps can detect unnoticeable levels of pest activity ahead of an increasing population. Other major advantages of the pheromone-based monitoring or scouting approach are species specificity (automatic insect identification), low nontarget effects, and reusability of plastic traps. In order to promote the adoption of pheromone-based scouting system, the Alabama Cooperative Extension initiated a statewide insect pheromone trap network for season-long monitoring on six major pests of peanuts and vegetables. A number of Regional Extension Agents and Specialists, farmers, and crop consultants participated in the pest surveys. This article reports the overall findings from two-years of this IPM project. In 2009, there were about 14 sites in 12 counties that were monitored using pheromone traps, and a total of 8,621 insects were collected and identified. The lesser cornstalk borer (3,586 moths), fall armyworm (1,386 moths), beet armyworm (1,377 moths), corn earworm (589 moths), and the southern armyworm (393 moths) were the dominant species. In 2010, the pheromone trap network captured 16,588 insects from 32 sites including the lesser cornstalk borer (7,759 moths), beet armyworm (3,144 moths), fall armyworm (1,682 moths), tobacco budworm (791 moths), and corn earworm/tomato fruitworm (747 moths). Thus, we found a pattern of insect abundance and activity, and growers in Baldwin and Mobile Counties need to be on extra alert as the pest pressures are nearly 10 times or more than the pest pressures in north Alabama. Another alarming information based on research is the near doubling of the activity of tobacco budworms in vegetable and row crop fields indicating an emerging concern for crop production since the caterpillars cannot be controlled by synthetic pyrethroid insecticides (unlike the corn earworm). **One of the major limitations for pheromone-based scouting system is that traps only capture actively flying insects like moths and some beetles; the traps do not capture caterpillars that may be damaging the produce.** Therefore, it is best to keep scouting the crops directly using recommended methods and use pheromone traps to correctly time your scouting efforts. Another limitation of the technology is that heat can reduce the effectiveness of the lure or attractant in the trap. Despite the challenges, pheromone trapping can assist growers to develop 'site-specific' IPM action plan before a pest outbreak. There are economic thresholds for controlling insects based on trap catch numbers, e.g., corn earworm and armyworms. Growers are encouraged to visit the detailed project website at [www.aces.edu/go/85](http://www.aces.edu/go/85) for numerous reports and pest advisories. Readers also can subscribe to the weekly IPM newsletter (summer publication) that contains up-to-date information on insect, disease and weed issues in Alabama by sending an email to [bugdoctor@auburn.edu](mailto:bugdoctor@auburn.edu). Always purchase traps and lures from trusted sources. For more information, contact the nearest County Extension Office.



## Horticulture Education 2011

### Horticulture Education: Intelligent Plant Management Series

The dates of the series are:

February 24	Soils 101: Starting from Ground Zero - James Miles
March 31	Edible Landscape: Vegetables - James Miles
April 28	Turf's Up and Weeds - James Miles
May 26	Insects: "What's Bugging You?" - James Miles
June 30	Blueberries 101 - James Miles
July 28	Citrus 101 - James Miles

Each meeting will start at 6:00 P.M. All classes will be held at the Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Road North. The cost of the Series is \$100.00 per person, or \$20.00 per session per person, which includes a notebook of publications and refreshments during the meetings. You must register with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, 1070 Schillinger Road North by January 12, 2011. You may call 574-8445 and ask the receptionist for a registration form. Your fee must accompany your registration form.

Maximum participation will be 100 people.

Participation is on a first-come first-serve basis. Tell your friends!

## Mobile County Master Gardeners 2010 Greenery Sale

Location: The Mobile Botanical Gardens

Dates and Times:

Friday, December 3 - 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Saturday, December 4 - 9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

