



Eastern NC Nursery News

September 2017

Find the latest information about nursery production in Eastern NC below!

[Visit Danny's Website](#)

East Meets West Field Grown Nursery Tour

During August 16-18 a group of eastern NC field nursery growers and I travelled to western NC to visit Chad Gragg's North 40 Nursery and Jeff Gragg's Buffalo Creek Nursery with a couple of side trips. Thanks to Amanda Taylor, Western Region Area Specialized Agent for helping set this up and hosting us. Here are a few of the items we saw and learned about:

- Use of tiller for soil prep prior to planting
- Use of fiberglass stakes to prevent replacing broken bamboo and provide tree support with movement
- Growers across the state struggle with cryptomeria production
- Western growers use shearing knives to prune upright evergreens which is adapted from Christmas tree growers
- Innovative use of equipment including sprayers, pruning scaffolding, and sliding forks for loading
- They use tighter spacing since they plan to dig entire fields and keep plant variability low (they don't generally let customers tag plants)
- They do not tie canopies of upright evergreen shrubs and certain deciduous trees when digging and shipping to save labor



Participants kicked off the tour by eating lunch at the Love Valley General Store, we learned about the history of the town, Almond Brothers - Woodstock connection, horseback riding and rodeos in the area, and toured our host's (Cyndy Allison) garden.

Ask one of the tour participants you see pictured above or I if you want more information about what we learned or if you are interested in a group trip to visit Tennessee liner growers. See more images below.



North 40 Nursery



In the weeds checking out planting equipment.



Developing canopy and central leader.



Checking out loading equipment.

Rose Rosette BOLO

Although not currently seen as common in nurseries, rose rosette disease is a big deal we need to be concerned about and on the lookout for. The disease is caused by a virus (*Emaravirus* sp.) and is spread by eriophyid mites (*Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*). These mites are different from what we are used to. They are very tiny (must have 20x magnification or greater to see them), lack wings, have 4 legs, and are wind blown). The virus causes excessive red new growth that is retained through the growing season, excessive thorniness, and distorted witches broom type growth. It may mimic glyphosate injury in some ways but glyphosate injury usually does not cause excessive thorns or cause persistent red new growth. If you find plants with these symptoms and rose rosette is confirmed, the affected plants should be disposed of by bagging before removal from their site (to prevent mite spread) and then destroyed.

Also look around your nursery site for multiflora roses which are a weedy species that will spread the disease and destroy them as well. Miticide applications have not yet been proven to reduce incidence of rose rosette but using miticide rotations including products that will control eriophyid mites in addition to two spotted spider mites and southern red mites you already deal with could not hurt. Outside of traditional pest control there may be beneficials that can help manage these mites. We also need to encourage landscape dienele to be on the lookout, remove, and destroy infected plants. Here are some good links with much more information:

<https://www.amerinursery.com/plants/staying-ahead-rose-rosette-disease/>

<https://www.amerinursery.com/plants/keeping-roses-clean/>

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9207/EPP-7329web2017.pdf>

http://ir4.rutgers.edu/Ornamental/SummaryReports/OrnHortProgram_ProjectSheet_MiteEfficacy_2015.pdf

<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/mannion/IST%202010/Osborne-IST%20handout-miticides.pdf>

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/ORN/ph_fructiphilus.htm

<http://ncsupdicblog.blogspot.com/2012/08/rose-rosette-hits-dose-to-home.html>



Rose rosette sustained red new growth and excessive thorniness.

Eastern NC Nursery Conference to be held on February 13, 2018

If you have not already done so put this date on your calendar for an information packed day at the Wilson County Agricultural Center. I have booked Dr. Ed Gilman, retired Professor from University of Florida. Dr. Gilman's research has focused on tree and shrub production practices and their impact on the rate of establishment in the landscape. Production practices include pruning, irrigation, fertilizer, root pruning to improve root systems, and non-traditional containers. One major focus was root morphology in response to nursery production. He will be presenting on the topic of "Growing High Quality Root Systems, Trunks, and Crowns in Container and Field Grown Nurseries". The topic will apply to both tree and shrub production and will begin at liner development.

Other topics scheduled will include a red headed flea beetle update from me and how to introduce biological control into traditional nursery pest management programs. One other topic is being finalized and will be announced later.



I'm looking forward to the 2nd Annual Eastern NC Nursery Conference. We had great topics at the 2017 conference and have a completely different slate of presenters for 2018.

The Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program at NC Cooperative Extension is your source for research-based production information for greenhouse and nursery crops in Eastern North Carolina.

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