

Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program
Danny Lauderdale, Area Specialized Agent



Eastern NC Nursery News

April 2018

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

Visit Danny's Website

Red-headed Flea Beetle Update

GDD from across the region:

Wilmington area: 500-525

Fayetteville area: 425-475

Greenville area: 350-75

Smithfield: 336

Rocky Mount-Wilson area: 310-335

South Wake County area: 280-315

Based on my observations you may find a few scattered larvae hatched starting around 300 GDD (hard to find). Significant numbers of larvae should be hatched after 400 GDD. First generation adults may emerge as early as 550-600 GDD in plants protected in overwintering houses.

Use these to track your specific GDD:
<http://uspest.org/cgi-bin/ddmodel.us>

<http://www.greencastonline.com/growing-degree-days/home>



RHFB larva.

Cold Injury Resources

Cold Injury Meeting in Eastern NC:

I am including a link below to a doodle poll in order to gauge interest in meeting to have a round table discussion about cold injury experiences of nursery growers this past winter. Several growers including Danny VanDevender and Mike Worthington feel there is value in meeting in order to discuss individual experiences to help be better prepared in the future. Please click on the link below and enter your name and the dates and times you are available so we can select the best date and time when most of us are available. The location (somewhere in central eastern NC) will be determined once date and time are selected. Please respond as soon as possible but no later than April 30:



This thermal blanket provided good protection.

<https://doodle.com/poll/gydnpg9hx3npi4sw>

Cold Injury Assistance:

I have communicated with Phil Wilson at NCDA&CS Plant Protection and he provided me with the following information related to potential to apply for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) through your local county FSA office. I hope you find this information helpful.

"Danny,

This afternoon, I spoke with Rob Satterfield, USDA FSA Supervisory Agricultural Program Specialist, regarding the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). His direct number is 919-875-4824 or rob.satterfield@nc.usda.gov. Based on the following factsheet, https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/tap_fact_sheet_oct2017.pdf he told me there is no requirement for an official disaster declaration in order to apply for this program. He told me growers should go to their local FSA office to complete an application according to the guidelines. One key requirement is 15% percent mortality loss in a stand. A stand is considered all the plants in a particular area not just a certain species They will have a FSA representative inspect to verify that requirement is reached.

Hope this information is helpful.
Thanks
Phil"

FSA TAP links:

[**FSA Disaster Assistance Fact Sheet**](#)

[**FSA TAP Fact Sheet**](#)

Keeping Your Best Employees

I took some notes at Green & Growin' from the presentation by Denise Ryan of Firestar Speaking related to retaining good employees. Here is a summary:

Attributes of Great Employees:

- Punctual and prepared
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Follow the chain of command
- Don't gossip or socialize to excess
- Don't bring their personal problems to work
- Ask for help when they need it
- Good attitude

Reasons employees leave:

- Job is not what they expected
- Too little coaching and feedback
- No pay raises or promotions
- Feel like they are not valuable
- Stress from overwork
- Lack of decision making from supervisor

- Management lacks people skills
- Don't get along with co-workers
- Leave for more meaningful work
- Major life event change

How to get employees to stay:

- Respect for all employees
- Money (all employees work harder in a system that rewards great performance)
- Benefits (traditional, rewards, and non-traditional)
- Job security
- Trust
- Opportunities to use skills
- Relationship with immediate supervisor
- Safe work environment
- Respect of employee ideas and input
- Share your passion for the work you do

Overall takeaway points:

- You spend 80% of your time on 20% of the problem people. Don't keep bad employees.
- If you treat everyone the same, the superstars will leave.
- Leaders get the followers they deserve...good or bad.

Winter Injury Got you Down? Take time to review this publication and be prepared for next winter: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/preparing-nursery-plants-for-winter>

Important Dates

April 24, 6-8 PM, Weeds of Container Nurseries: Identification and Management, Harnett County Agricultural Center, 126 Alexander Dr., Suite 300, Lillington, NC 27546. Contact Matt Jones for more information at (910) 814-6024 or register at <http://go.ncsu.edu/harnettweeds>

May 24, 10 AM - 2 PM, Pesticide Disposal Collection, Wilson County Agricultural Center, Contact Tommy Batts, Extension Agent, at 252-237-0111.

August 8, 4 - 8 PM, Castle Hayne Nursery Twilight Field Day, Castle Hayne Research Station, Contact Danny Lauderdale for more information.

Pesticide disclaimer: Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by NC Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

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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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