

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



## Eastern NC Nursery News

August 2018

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

Visit Danny's Website

### Neonicotinoid Survey

Researchers at the University of Florida are conducting a study to investigate the effects of neonicotinoid regulation on the economic feasibility of pest management in ornamental horticulture.

They are looking for industry participation, particularly from growers with experience with neonicotinoid pesticides. The study is investigating the effect of a neonicotinoid ban/restrictions on plant producers. Grower participation will help better understand the economic viability of alternative pest management practices and regulation.

Click the following link to take the survey: [UF Neonicotinoid Survey](#)

### Cultivate '18 Update

I was fortunate to be able to attend Cultivate in Columbus, Ohio in July. This is the largest all industry trade show for the horticulture. Nursery growers, greenhouse growers, and industry suppliers abound at the trade show. Over 700 exhibitors and 10,000 attendees participate. There were also 120 educational sessions over a 4 day period covering business, garden retail, greenhouse production, interior plantscape, landscape, and nursery production. I learned about raising nursery water quality with floating wetlands, biocontrols in nursery production, how growers can give input to the IR-4 program

(pesticide efficacy) at any time by filling out a survey at this link: [Grower Needs Survey](#), how to attract and retain young professionals to your business, microbial pesticides, smart technologies, and made a number of connections related to future red headed flea beetle management possibilities.

At the trade show I focused on two things: connections related to red headed flea beetle management options and equipment/technology for innovation and efficiency. Equipment and technology developments are advancing at a rapid pace. Soon plant moving robots will be able to help topdress fertilizer and apply herbicides. There are already great products to make topdressing more efficient and decrease worker fatigue. I believe that some of the companies will come together to use robots plus conveyor pruning equipment to save labor for other less physically demanding tasks. There is also potential here for combining pruning with granular topdress applications (herbicides and insecticides) and directed liquid preemergence applications.

My trip actually began a few days before Cultivate started as I was able to visit Decker's Nursery, Acorn Farms, Willoway Nursery, Willowbend Nursery, and Ridge Manor Nursery in the Columbus, Ohio and Cleveland, Ohio areas. These larger nurseries have had to implement efficient use of equipment due to size, scale, and labor needs. Some of the equipment, ideas, and technology being used and explored are multiple pot forks, inventory management systems for customer pick ups, smart sprayer technology, intense honest interviews with potential employees (looking for work ethic and once hired treat them like family, a week of shadowing all departments, a month of learning something new everyday), drones, telescoping conveyors for truck loading, weeding machines, GPS, rice hulls for weed control, mechanized pruning, and potting/planting equipment. Below are a few images of innovative equipment:



Rake push cart used to knock off granular herbicides from leaves.



Granular topdress applicator (models for fertilizer and herbicide).



4 row field shrub pruner.



Tree form shrub digger.



Plastic bailer for removing and compacting plastic.



Container shrub pruner.



Trike and container moving forks.

## What's Up Next Month?

Next month I will share a few highlights from the Eastern NC Agent Training and Grower Field Day held at Castle Hayne on August 8, review what was shared at Taylors Nursery and Worthington Farms when growers visited from Western NC on August 16, and give an update on my observations of crapemyrtle bark scale in eastern NC.



## Important Dates

**February 12, 2019, Eastern NC Nursery Conference in Wilson, NC. Topics will be Developing an IPM Program, Nursery Fertility, Does Pond Water Affect Plant Growth?, FSA Tree Assistance Program, and Red Headed Flea Beetle Research Update.**

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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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