

Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program
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Eastern NC Nursery and Greenhouse News

October 2018

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

Visit Danny's Website

Intelligent Sprayer Technology Available in 2019

Some of you may have heard about this technology, most applicable at this time to field grown nursery production. Basically orchard/field nursery type of airblast sprayers can be retrofitted with laser detection technology that automatically activates or deactivates individual sprayer nozzles based on presence of plant material. I have heard that retrofit kits will start at around \$27,000. Here are some links to more information:

www.ars.usda.gov/intelligent-spray

<https://cfaes.osu.edu/stories/they-made-the-world%E2%80%99s-first-%E2%80%98intelligent-sprayer%E2%80%99>

<http://www.nurserymag.com/article/intelligent-sprayer-available-smart-guided-systems/>



Are you ready for winter?

Whether you think you are ready or are getting ready to implement winter protection strategies soon, make sure to



review the information available in this publication before you call winter protection complete:

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/preparing-nursery-plants-for-winter>

This is what I hope we all see when covers come off next year. Avoid winter injury by making the best choices possible now for winter protection!

Give Input to Shape Ornamental Pest Research

The IR-4 program works to facilitate registrations of pesticides and biological pesticides in many areas of production including ornamentals under their Environmental Horticulture Program. In order to get the information you need to help you produce healthier plants more efficiently, the program constantly asks for input from growers. Follow the link below to give your input on disease, insect, and weed issues you feel need more research and product availability (examples might include red headed flea beetle adults, red headed flea beetle larvae, crapemyrtle bark scale, or European pepper moth for insects):

<https://www.ir4project.org/ehc/ehc-registration-support-research/env-hort-grower-needs/>



Crapemyrtle trunks covered with sooty mold prior to treatment.

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale (CMBS) Update

Although I have not been doing any replicated research work on this insect I did work with agents in Currituck County in a neighborhood that has an infestation to demonstrate to property owners how to manage this insect. I followed the recommendations by Texas A&M University researchers and other who suggest using imidacloprid or dinotefuran drenches in the spring to combat this invasive insect. Drench applications were made to several plants in the neighborhood following label instructions with a drench applied imidacloprid product based on size of multiple trunks per plant. Drench applications were made on April 23 and visual evaluation was done on August 21. Imidacloprid drenches seemed very effective in controlling CMBS. We did leave one plant untreated for comparison and were pleasantly surprised that Hyperaspis lady beetle larvae were present in large numbers feeding on CMBS during the August 21 evaluation.



Crapemyrtle trunks with little sooty mold after treatment due to reduced scale population.

Here are some links that are helpful:

<https://ipm.tamu.edu/2017/03/crape-myrtle-bark-scale-study-reveals-tree-treatments-to-fight-pest/>



Hyperaspis lady beetle larvae are predators of crapemyrtle bark scale.



August 8 Agent Training/Grower Field Day Summary

We had a great turnout (9 agents and 46 growers) at the Castle Hayne Research Station for this two part event focused on irrigation water quality, weed management, red headed flea beetle, and granulate ambrosia beetle. Joe Neal presented his latest research on preemergence herbicide efficacy and Anthony LeBude covered how irrigation water quality affects plant production. I covered updates from my work this year trapping granulate ambrosia beetles and red headed flea beetles. If you need more information let me know.



Important Date: (Sponsor Opportunities Available, Contact Danny if interested in sponsoring by November 1)

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. (Alternate date if weather is an issue will be February 19).

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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