

No Quick Fix For Large, Sick Trees

Dear Plant Doctor: I have a great number of Lombardy poplars planted along my property line and drive. Nearly all of these trees have a severe leaf disease that is defoliating my trees. These beautiful trees are nearly 40 feet tall. I have enclosed samples of the diseased leaves for you to examine. What can I do to save them?

Answer: The leaves you sent me appear to have a fungal disease. I suspect this is a superficial leaf problem due in part to the hot dry summer and in part to the stress the Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) surely feels growing so far out of its optimum habitat. This plant was brought to colonial America in the 1780s from Italy but will only live 20 years to 30 years due to a canker disease that develops in the upper crown of the tree. I cannot determine from your sample if your trees are infected with the canker disease that kills Lombardy poplars.

Unfortunately, I cannot give you a quick fix solution to your disease problem. Large trees are nearly impossible or impractical to treat for disease or insect problems due to pesticide costs and/or environmental considerations. The best advice I can give you is to:

1. Keep trees healthy through proper fertilization and pruning practices. The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the National Arborist Association have excellent publications detailing optimum tree care. Contact your local Extension office for information or

THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
Turf Specialist



send me a SASE.

2. If your trees die, plant a tree species that is native or naturalized to your site. This will not guarantee a problem-free tree but it is the best way to reduce future insect and disease problems.

Also take time to thoroughly investigate the tree species. For example, fast growing trees like your Lombardy poplar, Silver maple or Bradford pear often have a short life (15 years to 25 years) due to limb breakage, soft wood or poor limb structure. The live oak, willow oak or the southern magnolia are slower growing but will look great for generations to come.

3. Forget about treating large trees with pesticides. Cost, liability and environmental considerations are nearly prohibitive in most urban areas of North Carolina. Effective pruning, plant spacing and cultural practices are the environmentally sound approach to tree care.

Dear Plant Doctor: I know it is awfully hot outside to be thinking of a greenhouse but I have always wanted one in my backyard. My

husband will build one for me if the cost of materials is not too much. Do you have any plans or other information about greenhouses?

Answer: I have built and worked in or around greenhouses for much of my professional life. Managing a greenhouse is much like owning a milk cow; you must care or check on it nearly every day for best results. New technologies have made owning a greenhouse easier, but these modern conveniences come with a price. Greenhouses are very useful for overwintering tropical plants, growing orchids, and growing seedlings or transplants for vegetable and flower gardening. A greenhouse requires intense management for optimum results.

I recommend that you seriously consider building an inexpensive, plastic-film-covered, Quonset-style greenhouse just to see if you like greenhouse work. A 12-foot by 14-foot plastic film covered PVC pipe, Quonset-style greenhouse can be easily built in an afternoon for less than \$150. This price does not include heating, ventilation or irrigation systems.

Dr. Boyette of N.C. State University just published "A Small Backyard Greenhouse for the Home Gardener," AG-426, that quickly and clearly takes you through all the steps for building a small 12-foot by 14-foot greenhouse. Contact your local Extension office or send me a SASE for a copy.

Send your gardening questions and comments to *The Plant Doctor*, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.



PHOTO BY MARTHA HANNON

Annuals Brighten Landscape

A profusion of vinca, impatiens and evergreen shrubbery accent the foundation of the home of Ed and Gwen Johnson, 23 Gate 10, who received the Carolina Shores Garden Club August Yard of the Month award. The plantings are complemented by a brick wall and a well-groomed lawn.

Three Study 'Ag In Classroom'

Three Brunswick County teachers recently attended a continuing education workshop in Raleigh to learn how they can incorporate "Ag in the Classroom" in their schools this coming year.

Nancy Wemyss, Ginny Pridgen and Bobbie Sellers each received three hours of certificate renewal credit for attending the workshop sponsored by the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

"Ag in the Classroom" is a state-approved educational program designed to foster a greater appreciation of agriculture among students. It provides teachers with a variety of lesson materials about agriculture and related industries that can be used in conjunction with the state-mandated curriculum.

In greetings relayed to the group, Gov. Jim Hunt reminded teachers that agriculture is North Carolina's "number one" industry, accounting for one third of the state's income and generating 21 percent of its jobs.

Participating educators visited North Carolina State University hog and dairy research farms and stopped at the N.C. State Arboretum to learn more about plant life.



WEMYSS

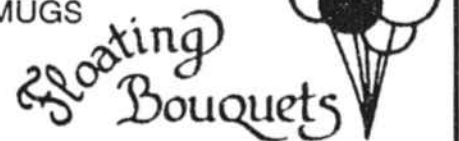
PRIDGEN

SELLERS

In the workshop they received instruction in various teaching strategies and designed their own lesson plans to better share with pupils the new things they were learning about agriculture.

Why not send a Balloon-A-Gram?

BIRTHDAY BOUQUETS • THANK YOU
GET WELL • HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
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Clown available for kids' parties!

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7 DAYS A WEEK

"THEY FLOAT A LONG TIME"



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

HEATHER HILTON models at State 4-H Congress.

Brunswick County 4-H'ers Visible At State Congress

Brunswick County 4-H'ers had a high profile at State 4-H Congress in Raleigh July 19-23, reports Billy Privette, 4-H extension agent.

Jennifer Hatcher, 12, won the turkey barbecue junior division for ages 9 to 13, and Heather Hilton modeled a green and white semi-fitted suit in the State 4-H Fashion Revue.

Hatcher, the daughter of James and Dottie Hatcher of Winnabow received a \$50 savings bond from the N.C. Turkey Federation.

Hilton, 16, the daughter of Susan Morgan of Supply and Bob Hilton of Walnut Cove, has won fashion revue awards at the county level for the past 10 years.

Other 4-H'ers from the county participating in state-level presentation competition were Casey Townsend, runner-up in computers; Sammy Coles, entomology; Amy Adams, peanut foods; Abigail Larson, bicycle; Phillip Hess, chicken barbecue; Jonetta Evans, aquaculture; and Stephanie Hopkins, dog care.

Other members of the county delegation led by Privette were Jessica Winfree, Heather Branch, Heidi Layman, Jessica Jones and Matt Privette.

Brunswick County 4-H serves young people between the ages of 6 and 19. More information is available from the 4-H office in Bolivia, 253-4425.

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2ND ANNUAL OLD BALDY CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST

Open for all young artists 15 and under to interpret Old Baldy Lighthouse on Bald Head Island.

Contest Deadline
Sunday, August 22, 1993

Awards Ceremony

Saturday, Sept. 4, 1993 - 6:00 pm at the Texas Bar-B-Q in the River Pilot Cafe Courtyard.

Art will be displayed at the River Pilot Cafe on Bald Head Island, Sunday, August 29 - Saturday, September 11

AGE CATEGORIES AND PRIZES:

First, second and third prizes for these age groups:
5 - 8 years
9 - 12 years
13 - 15 years

Grand Prize, Best in Show

Family week at Captain Charlie's Station, Bald Head Island.

First Place winners in each age category will receive a \$30 gift certificate to Beachcomber's on Bald Head Island.

Second Place winners in each age category will receive a \$15 gift certificate to Beachcomber's on Bald Head Island.

Third Place winners in each age category will receive an Old Baldy Foundation T-shirt.

People's Choice winner will receive a \$25 dinner certificate to River Pilot Cafe. (Ballots will be collected at the Cafe by noon, Sept. 4)

All artwork must be delivered to Indigo Plantation Sales Center or BHI Sales Center on Saturday, August 21, or Sunday, August 22 by 5 p.m.

All entries must be suitable for display. All artwork to be no more than 24" x 30". Limit is two entries per artist. The judging panel will consist of local artists and residents.

ENTRY FORM

(Attach to Artwork)

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: (Permanent) _____
Street Name / Number

City/State/Zip Code

BHI ADDRESS AND PHONE AT CONTEST TIME (if applicable) _____ DATES OF STAY _____

Name of House or Unit/Phone

ARTWORK MEDIUM _____

TITLE OF WORK _____

Artwork will be returned in person, if desired, on Sunday, September 13, at Indigo Plantation Sales Center.

FOR CONTEST USE ENTRY NUMBER: _____
PRIZE: _____

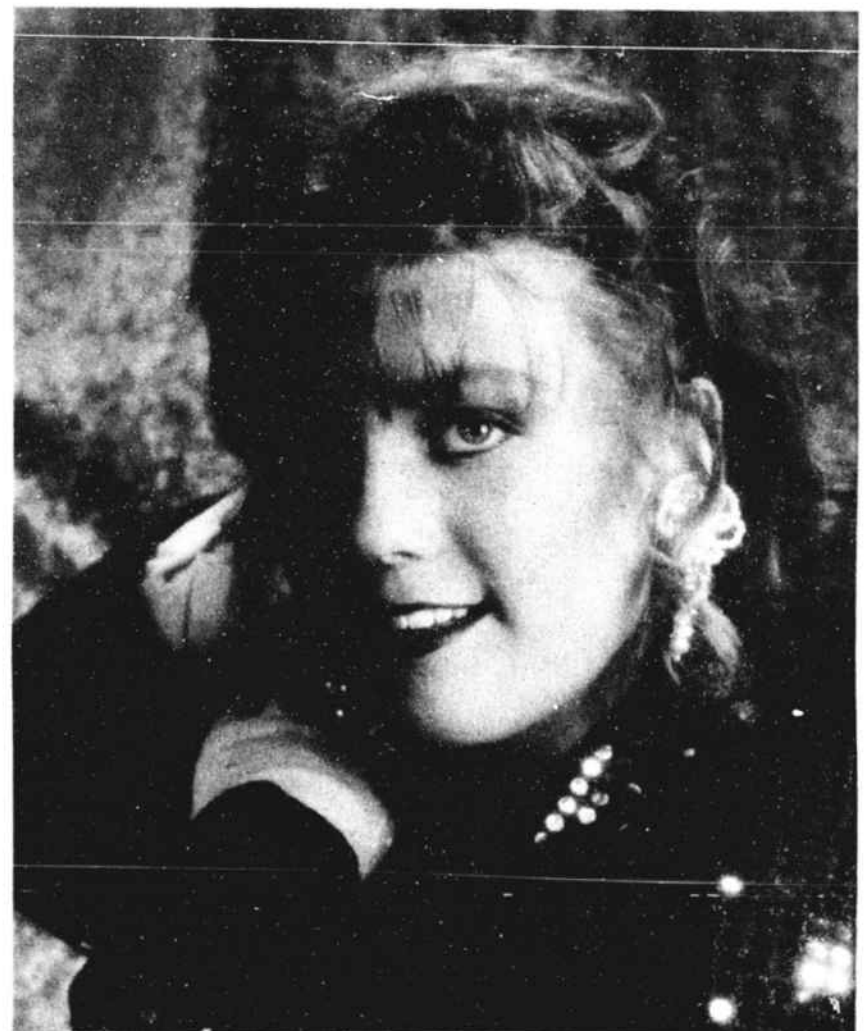
Old Baldy Foundation, Inc., and Bald Head Island Management will make every effort to handle all artwork with ultimate care. However, they are not responsible for damage due to circumstances beyond their control.

Artists enter with this understanding and at their own risk. Judges decision will be final.

All winning artwork becomes the property of Bald Head Island Management, Inc.

Congratulations Crystal Coleman

1993 Miss North Carolina Coed Hostess



You're on your way to Hawaii!

Crystal Coleman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Coleman of Calabash, is Miss N.C. Coed Hostess 1993. This is her second year holding the title. Crystal will represent North Carolina at the national pageant in Hawaii Aug. 25-Sept. 1.

We would like to thank the principal, teachers and all her friends at Shallotte Middle for their understanding and support. She will be a freshman at West Brunswick High School and is looking forward to the challenge of going there. We all are very proud of her and hope she does well in years to come.

Good luck from The Calabash Seafood Hut!
We know you can do it!