

Diagnose Problem Before Treating

Dear Plant Doctor: We would appreciate your advice on several problems we are having with some of our plants.

Several young pear trees are experiencing serious leaf damage (holes, half-eaten leaves, etc.) despite spraying with Sevin at the suggested application rates and times.

A young dogwood tree has leaves discoloring, withering and dropping off despite spraying and ample watering.

Finally, we have numerous cannas lilies which are thriving and we would like to know if they need winterizing. Can the plants be divided to increase the quantities at this time?

Answer: Thank goodness you enclosed a large stamped, self-addressed envelope because I am sending you a stack of information.

Spraying any tree with just one type of insecticide is a gamble. Sevin is an excellent all-purpose insecticide but it will not control all kinds of insects with equal efficacy. Try to capture some of the insects feeding on your plants and take them to the nearest N.C. Cooperative Extension office for positive identification. The best treatment (which may not include insecticide use) for that insect can then be utilized.

Dogwoods, maples and many other trees are showing severe signs of summer leaf scorch and related heat-induced problems. New plantings and young trees are especially susceptible to summer leaf scorch. Maintain good watering and cultural practices and leave the rest to nature.

Cannas should be mulched and, if crowded, divided in the fall. The fall is an excellent time to divide most all perennial flowering herbaceous plants, including cannas. After canna leaves and stalks have gone dormant and brown (usually in December or January), remove all (cut off) above ground plant parts and

THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
Turf Specialist



then compost or destroy. This helps interrupt the life cycle of several types of insects that can be very destructive to canna foliage.

Dear Plant Doctor: I have a 15- or 20-foot Kwanzan flowering cherry tree and the leaves are looking sick (see enclosed leaves). People tell me this tree has "short-life disease" and that is what is killing my tree. My tree is only 7 years old and I have taken good care of it. Please advise.

Answer: The Kwanzan flowering cherry (*Prunus serrulata*) is not my favorite tree, but it is certainly beautiful in the spring, and a healthy plant should not be succumbing to "short life" problems. I cannot diagnose the problem with your tree from the leaves you sent. The cherries and their relatives (peaches, plums, apricots, pears, almonds, etc.) are often plagued with a number of insect, fungal and bacterial disease problems.

I am sending you a new publication, "Insect and Disease Problems," cooperatively written and published by the Extension Service and the International Society of Arboriculture that should help ease your concerns and get to the bottom of your tree problem.

Send your gardening questions and comments to *The Plant Doctor*, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422. Please remember to enclose a SASE if you are requesting a reply or information.



SHALLOTTE LIONS making Candy Day plans include (from left) Bill Caudill, Davis Milligan, Percy Woodard, Len Ferguson and Marvin Peters. The fund drive will take place Thursday, Sept. 16.

Lions Club Candy Fundraiser Set

Shallotte Lions Club members will conduct a Candy Day fund drive today (Thursday).

Candy Days provide help for the blind and visually impaired of the Shallotte area. Club members will be giving away Lions mints in front of various businesses and signing up people interested in the organization's annual grocery raffle.

Funds generated by Candy Day, a statewide project, help the Lions maintaining health screening units, provide eye examinations, eyeglasses and provide extra money needed by some for eye surgery.

Cornea transplants, blind training, diabetic research and dogs for the blind are all funded through Candy Day. Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness.

"Throughout North Carolina, thousands of Lions Club members will be hard at work to raise Candy Day funds to take care of the ever-increasing costs and demands for services by the needy," said Shallotte Lions spokesman Len Ferguson.

Class Of '73 Sets Dinner

Members of the South Brunswick High School class of 1973 will hold a get-together dinner Saturday, Oct. 2, at The Seafood Barn Restaurant on Holden Beach at 7 p.m.

More information is available by calling Nina Davis at 457-5744 between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. or Mary Bryant Morgan at 842-2193, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

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Milton Coleman Named To Team Battling Gypsy Moth Introduction

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service Director Milton Coleman has been named to a management team appointed to battle an introduction of gypsy moths along the Cape Fear River.

N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham and state agricultural officials created the panel to launch a program to control the voracious pest in Brunswick and New Hanover counties.

The team also includes representatives from the N.C. Department of Agriculture, the N.C. Forest Service, the N.C. Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Department of Defense, the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

Graham also named a science panel to make recommendations to the management team.

The gypsy moth is a dangerous insect which feeds on the leaves of trees and shrubbery. If left unchecked, the moth could leave forests and the environment suffering

the effects of defoliation.

In July, inspectors found the pest aboard a munitions vessel docked along the Cape Fear River at Southport. The discovery alarmed USDA officials because they noticed the female moth flying, a characteristic which gives the insect a broader dispersal range.

Most strains of gypsy moths cannot fly. The European strain, whose females are flightless, is already established in sections of northeastern North Carolina.

Inspectors found the moths aboard the M.V. Advantage, a freighter which docked at the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal July 4. The ship had just arrived from a two week voyage from Germany.

NCDA experts believe gypsy moth pupae attached to the ship's cargo. They began to emerge as adults after the ship left port. Europe, and Germany in particular, are experiencing their worst outbreak of gypsy moths in 50 years.

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