

In Cleveland County

Plant Problem Clinic Is Begun

Cleveland County citizens now have a new service available to find out what is wrong with their ailing plants. The new service is the Cleveland County Plant Problem Clinic.

The Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Service has acquired plant diagnostic equipment that will enable faster identification of plant diseases, insects, and other plant pests and problems.

"Even problems related to soil condition such as acidity or high soluble salts can be diagnosed," according to Curtis S. Styles, Associate Agricultural Extension.

"We now have additional tools to do a better job for the people of Cleveland County in helping to identify the reasons their plants are doing poorly," Frank Spencer, Agricultural Extension Agent, said, the equipment should enable the Extension staff to identify certain disease and insect problems that had to be sent to Raleigh in the past.

"Sample of diseased or problem-ridden plants from crops had to be sent to Raleigh in the past for specific identification and valuable time for starting treatment was lost," Spencer said. "Now we can make the majority of identification locally here at our office with the aid of our equipment; this is expected to be of tremendous value to both farmers and gardeners alike."

Preliminary use of the Plant Problem Clinic has already yielded results and quick action, particularly in some of the field crops. Low PH or acid soil conditions were very quickly identified as being the cause for some poor stands in some fields of corn and sorghum in the county.

"The problem was identified in a matter of a few hours, whereas it may have taken 10 days to two weeks to wait on test results from Raleigh" according to Styles.

The Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Service has announced that the County Plant Problem Clinic began operation Monday, from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., in room 88 at the County Office Building on highway 180 Shelby. Any person who is having plant problems is welcome to bring a representative sample for diagnosis during the hours of operation.

The Plant Problem Clinic is operated as a public service and there is no charge to those persons needing to know more about their plant problems.

Unhealthy or problem plants should be brought to the clinic in plastic bags with the root system and attached soil undisturbed; dig the plants carefully. For large plants such as azalea, boxwood, or trees take a generous sample of leaves and stems that have early symptoms of the apparent problem. Greenhouse, nursery, and houseplants should be left in their containers and the entire plant brought to the clinic.

For insect problems catch 3-5 specimens, place them in a jar or clean medicine bottle, then bring the plant or part of the plant the insect is feeding on to the clinic. Be careful not to crush the insect so that an accurate identification can be made.

More information about the new County Plant Problem Clinic can be obtained by calling the Agricultural Extension Service office at 482-4965.

Gasoline Storage Can Be Dangerous

With motorists in the South becoming more and more concerned over possible gasoline shortages in the coming summer months, the Insurance Information Institute warns of an even more critical problem—the hazards of gasoline storage in homes or vehicles.

Serious accidents resulting from improper storage of gasoline are unfortunate reminders of what can happen when gasoline is stored anywhere but in the gas tank of your car. In one recent case, seven members of a California family were critically burned when gasoline stored in a plastic trash can in a bedroom closet was ignited by a furnace pilot light.

Improper storage of gasoline presents an extreme danger to life and property. Gasoline is continually giving off explosive vapors that can be ignited by sparks or flame from heaters, electrical equipment or cigarettes. Even small amounts of gasoline are capable of generating tremendous explosive force.

The Insurance Information Institute offers these suggestions to protect both life and property:

+Extra gasoline should never be stored in motor vehicles. Collisions, possible faulty wiring and the heat generated by

exhaust systems in automobile trunks create a deadly, potential threat; +Gasoline should never be kept in a basement or attached garage and should not be stored near heating or electrical sources. Instead, choose a storage area outside or in a structure away from the house;

+If it is absolutely necessary for fuel to be stored at home, use only approved containers that bear Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual System (FM) certification. They are designed with spring-lock caps, special pressure valves and flame protection devices to minimize the risk of explosion and fire;

+Store containers well out of the reach of children; and

+When in doubt, consult your fire department or fire marshal concerning local laws governing gasoline storage.

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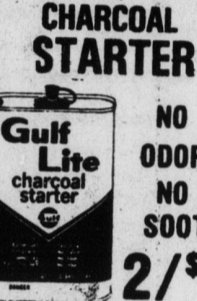
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