

Shades of Green

From Gardeners, To Gardeners

What's Buggin' You?

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Did you notice those cute little green worms dangling from a single fine thread seemingly in mid-air this past spring? Meet *Paleacrita vernata*, or the common spring cankerworm. By the time we see them hanging from our trees, they have already gorged themselves on leaves and are descending to the earth to burrow into the ground to pupate. The pupae will remain in the soil until the following spring when the wingless females crawl up the tree trunk to mate with the winged male. "How do I stop them?" you ask... The organic method is provided to us by Ohio State University Extension. "Trapping the adults is an important strategy." The trunks of susceptible trees can be banded with sticky adhe-

sives, such as *Tanglefoot*, in order to trap females as they crawl up the trunk to mate and lay eggs. Trapped females may remain



Above: Spring cankerworm Larvae bugwood.org



Above: Adult male Canker worm

at- tractive to the males, which also get stuck in the sticky band." Pesticide control includes *Sevin*, *Dipel*, or *Thuricide*. For additional reading about the spring cankerworm, go to:

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/factsheets/sheets/ankerworm.html>

There was also an explosive number of brown caterpillars that were feeding on trees, particularly oaks. *Cissusa spadix*, the Black Dotted Brown caterpillar was notorious this year. We have had numerous reports of them invading homes and covering patios and decks. They were here for several weeks defoliating oak trees and then gone. It is unknown right now what the lasting effects of this outbreak will be. It is thought that a healthy tree will leaf out again once they are gone, but there is a potential for negative effects for a year or more.

Kamal Gandhi, an assistant professor of forest entomology in the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, says

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Tomato Almighty

Not all tomatoes are created equal. Many hybrid varieties have been developed to resist a host of diseases, viruses and pests. Read the label when purchasing starter plants for a listing of specific disease resistance. The following is a list of abbreviations and their meanings:

V = Verticillium Wilt

F = Fusarium Wilt

FF = Fusarium Wilt race 1 and 2

N = Nematode

T = Tobacco Mosaic Virus

A = Alternaria (Early Blight)

TSW = Tomato Spotted Wilt

Some common tomato plants with good disease resistance that you may see at your local garden center are (determinate varieties) Bush Celebrity VFFNTA Hybrid, Bush Early Girl VFFNT Hybrid, Celebrity VFFNTA Hybrid, Rutgers VFA, (indeterminate varieties) Early Girl VFF Hybrid, Better Boy VFN Hybrid, Big Beef VFFNTA Hybrid, and Beefmaster VFN Hybrid.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7803&pg=np&ct=home%20tomato&kt=&kid=&pid=



Brighterblooms.com

Some gardeners and cooks prefer heirloom varieties for their exceptional quality and taste. Unfortunately, heirloom tomatoes do not have the genetics built in to resist diseases as the hybrids have been developed to do. There is an exception to our list, Rutgers, a determinate variety, is an heirloom and has VFA resistance.

Some newer techniques have been developed that employ grafting of vegetables to the root stock of cultivars that resist or tolerate soil borne diseases. More reading on this technique is found here-

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~clrivard/TubeGraftingTechnique.pdf>



eorganic.info

Another common issue which can attack both hybrid and heirloom tomato fruits is Blossom End Rot. This physical disorder usually occurs at the bottom end of the fruit, but can affect other areas of the tomato as well. It is caused by a low concentration of calcium in the fruit, which often occurs after long periods of drought followed by periods of excessive soil moisture.

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bonnieplants.com

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“the specific signs that those caterpillars have possibly made themselves at home include:

- Oak trees on a homeowner's property that have been stripped of leaves;
- Dark grayish-brown caterpillars with thin white lines on both sides that feed on the leaves mostly at night;
- A yard covered in the small black insect frass (excrement); and
- Caterpillars that come into the house at night and vomit reddish-brownish liquid”

It is not known why they come into our homes. But, we do know they typically spend the day on the ground under leaf litter or hidden between cracks in tree bark only to



http://www.uga.edu/news/photos/UGA_caterpillar_fig_1.jpg

come out at night and feast on oak tree leaves. The treatment as described previously for the spring canker worm will also work for any type of caterpillar although it is still unclear how effective the pesticides will be. (Images can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.discoverlife.org/20/q?search=Cissusa+spadix>

Contributed by, Pam Snyder

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Determinate vs. Indeterminate

Determinate tomato plants are typically referred to as “bushes”. The terminal buds do not set fruit and the plant growth is self-stopping at about 4' in height. All blooms and fruit develop on a bush at about the same time, therefore, all fruits are harvested at about the same time, which lasts only a few days. Most home gardeners use the determinate plant to grow canning tomatoes. Indeterminate tomato plants are usually referred to as “vining” and the terminal buds do not set fruit, nor do they stop growing. Home gardeners who do not prune the terminal bud can grow huge, tall plants, as they can grow indefinitely until fall frost kills them. Some plants have been known to grow to 10' although 6' is normal. Plants can develop both blossoms and fruit at all stages of growth on the plant at the same time, therefore, harvest can last for several months.



www.midwestwireworks.com

Regardless of type, tomatoes should be supported by either caging or stakes. Cages can be set down over the entire plant when it is still small, requiring no further work, no tying. Staking may require pruning as well as tying the plant up by the main stem for support. Be careful when pruning since overexposed fruit can result in sunburn or bird damage.



<http://inthegardenradio.com/v.php?pg=500>

Contributed by, Pam Snyder



www.growgardentomatoes.com/tomato-stakes.html

Gardening Events in Our Area



The Gardening Series
At Winterville Depot

Control the Creepie
Crawlies, June 28th,
10AM., free

Defend Your Plants, July
13, 10AM, free

A Step Above, Aug. 10,
10AM—12PM, \$5.00

Contact our office for registration
or additional info, (706) 613-3640

Live Smarter At Winter-
ville Depot

Raising Backyard Crit-
ters, Aug. 11, 10AM, free

Contact our office for registra-
tion or additional info,

(706) 613-3640

Trial Garden Open
House, June 25th,
8AM—3PM Tours

with Dr. Allan Armitage
and a visit with

Vince Dooley from
9am—11AM

July 9th is Blueberry Day
at the Athens Farmer's
Market with cooking de-
mos focusing on blueber-
ries and also kids activi-
ties.

Weather means
more when you have
a garden. There's
nothing like
listening to a shower
and thinking how it
is soaking in around
your green beans.

~ Marcelene Cox

Inquiring Gardeners Want to Know

Email us your garden re-
lated questions and we'll
post the Q and A here
each month.

Amanda's Article



Thank you for signing up
for our newsletter. We
hope this is as fun for you
to read as it is to create.
This newsletter is intended
to be a platform to share
timely gardening infor-

mation and research. We
also hope in the future to
have a small 'classified'
section in case you would
like to swap some seeds,
give away a plant or even
sell a tiller. Feel free to

send in your gardening
questions to the office, you
may even see your question
featured in a future news-
letter or newspaper article!

Happy Gardening!

Clarke County Cooperative Extension

2152 West Broad Street
Athens, GA 30606

Phone: (706) 613-3640

Fax: (706) 613-3643

Visit us on the web at

<http://www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/index.html>

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cooperative Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/Youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, researched-based education and information.

Learning *for* Life



Classified Ads

Sell, trade or give away
your garden related items
through this publication.

Please call Pam Snyder at
706-613-3640 or send an
email to:
clarkepa@uga.edu if you
would like to place an ad.