

# Terrell County Extension

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The following topics will be of interest to many of you, I hope. These articles contain timely information about corn variety performance information, gardening, livestock management, and chemical use in pond management. I hope you find something interesting and informational. For those interested in planting food plots for deer and other wild game, take a look at the nitrate toxicity article and then Google Nitrate/Nitrite poisoning and Prussic Acid poisoning. It will make you think about how you have been planting and managing wild game food plots.

To view the entire articles it will be necessary to go to the website listed at the end of the title of each article.

This newsletter can also be found on the Terrell County website located at the following address; Terrell County Web Site, Ag Updates & Newsletters:

<http://www.ugaextension.com/terrell>

## UGA Extension Publications

The Georgia 2010 Corn Performance Tests (Annual Publication Number 101-2) is now available on the Variety Testing website:

[www.swvt.uga.edu](http://www.swvt.uga.edu).

Outwit nuisance critters in your home and garden using the H.E.R.L. method, explained in this free pub from UGA experts <http://bit.ly/a8TZBR>

Selecting and Growing Azaleas

<[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=7732&pg=np&ct=B%20670&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7732&pg=np&ct=B%20670&kt=&kid=&pid=)> -- Bulletin 670 by Gary Wade, Horticulture

Nutritional, Environmental and Cultural Disorders of Pecan

<[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=7723&pg=np&ct=B%201332&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7723&pg=np&ct=B%201332&kt=&kid=&pid=)> -- Bulletin 1332 by Lenny Wells, Horticulture

Growing Cucumbers in the Home Garden

<[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=7724&pg=np&ct=M%20113&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7724&pg=np&ct=M%20113&kt=&kid=&pid=)> -- Misc. Publication 113 by Bob Westerfield,

Nitrate Toxicity

<[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=7709&pg=np&ct=C%20915&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7709&pg=np&ct=C%20915&kt=&kid=&pid=)> -- Circular 915 by Dennis Hancock, Crop & Soil Sciences

Is it Fall yet?! Stay ahead of the game in your garden by planning for cooler weather. First & Last Frost Dates in GA: <http://bit.ly/95U0r6>

The truth about slime molds, Spanish moss, lichens and mistletoe from UGA Extension experts: <http://bit.ly/ccufyK>

UGA Extension experts explain how to safely and effectively use chemicals for pond management in this free publication <http://bit.ly/cONLMI>

## **PRUSSIC ACID POISONING**

If you are grazing cattle on pastures containing sorghum-sudan grass, sorghum stubble, Johnson grass or wild cherry trees, you need to remove these cattle immediately before a killing frost and for at least a week afterward. The reason is that frost causes these plants to produce prussic acid or hydrocyanic acid (cyanide) which is very deadly even in small amounts. Grazing can resume after 7-10 days; hay cut from these crops is safe after it dries to 15-18% moisture (no green chop) and silage is safe after going through the ensiling process (5-6 weeks) (no green chop). Frost may occur in low places without killing the entire field so be careful to check these places even when the threat of frost is minimal. Bermuda grass and pearl millet do not produce prussic acid.

For more information on poisonous plants of North America try this site. I found it to have excellent detailed information regarding most of the weeds that are toxic to forage animals.

<http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/htm/bc/ttox04.htm>

## **IS TILLAGE THAT IMPORTANT TO SMALL GRAINS?**

*Dewey Lee, Small Grains*

Many tillage studies have been conducted in Georgia on both sandy and clayey soils and the yield response to tillage has often been significantly different between the two soil types. Most of the small grains in Georgia are planted on loamy sands to sandy loam soils. These soils tend to easily compact and form a hard pan and once disturbed will again easily compact under either rainfall or continuous equipment traffic. Small grain root strength is poor and roots do not penetrate these dense, compacted soils very easily. Prolonged rainfall causes low soil oxygen conditions by filling the air spaces with water. Small grain root growth is then easily restricted by the soil density and lack of oxygen. For these reasons, small grains respond to deep tillage by subsoiling, chisel plowing or paraploughing. When compared to deep tillage, no-tilling wheat will reduce yields as little as 5-8% or as much as 25 to 30%. Economically, it makes sense to deep till before planting small grains. Is the effect the same in clayey or silty loam soils? No, not necessarily. Yields in a conventional planted environment (i.e. disking, chiseling, etc.) are about the same or a little better than those planted no-till. A light disking or chiseling is sufficient for good production in these environments. Economically will it pay for itself....in most any type of sandy soils- absolutely, even given the current pricing environment and fuel cost.