



## White County Horticulture September Vol. 10 No. 9

### September Garden Calendar

Who knows what the fall and winter will be like, but we are heading into the fall season in better shape than expected. Lawns have greened up again, plants are perking up and vegetable gardens are still producing. September usually brings us a first taste of fall-like weather, but overall we are typically still hot and dry. Last year, September marked the beginning of a dry spell. Pay attention to what the weather throws at us and be prepared to water as needed. Keep in mind that spring blooming plants are finishing up setting blooms for next year now, and we want them healthy and happy as they head into winter.

Vegetable gardens are often also in flux. Some gardeners are still harvesting with regularity while other gardens have totally played out. If your garden is still good, keep harvesting and gradually begin to fill in the blanks with fall vegetables. If your garden is a lost cause, practice good sanitation and clean it up and begin to replant for fall. Many edible gardeners are now gardening year-round with limited winter protection, including high tunnels or just moderate frost protection. We should see vegetable transplants arriving at local outlets soon. If you can find some new tomato plants, they

can also continue to bear until a killing frost. You can seed carrots, lettuce, spinach, kale and other greens now. Mulch any new plantings and be prepared to water

Recent rains, following dry conditions have caused some disease issues on some ornamentals. Leaf spot diseases and mildew have been a common problem on many plants late in the season. I doubt you will find many hydrangeas without a spot here and there, or peonies dying back, or spots on dogwood leaves. Don't worry and don't start a spray program this late in the season. For now, rake up any fallen, damaged leaves, cut back perennials as they die back, water if dry and mulch. Perennials that have started dying back are heading into dormancy, and will return next spring. That includes peonies, lilies, and bleeding hearts. Trees and shrubs with damaged foliage should be monitored for leaf fall. Once that begins, rake it up and clean it up and start fresh next spring. Don't prune trees and shrubs now, especially spring bloomers, as they have set their flower buds for next spring.

For some reason hot, dry conditions don't seem to hurt our weed crop like they do desirable plants. In the lawn, it is too late to worry about herbicide usage, but mowing can help prevent

seed set. In flower beds and vegetable gardens, attack with a good sharp hoe. If allowed to grow unchecked, the seeds they leave behind will cause problems for years to come.

Summer annuals and flowering tropical plants may need a bit of fertilizer now to keep blooming until frost. All the rains we had, cut down on our watering duties, but they still leached out the nutrition in the soil and particularly in containers. Fertilization will keep them blooming better. If your summer annuals haven't survived, it is a bit too early to plant pansies and violas, but you can plant marigolds, ornamental peppers and begin planting ornamental (and edible) kale, mustard and cabbage.

Annuals aren't the only way to add flower color. Summer perennials are still going strong with Echinacea, rudbeckia and gaillardia, but to add to the mix the fall perennials are starting a show with Chelone (turtlehead), Tricyrtis (toad lilies) and Japanese anemones, for the shade and goldenrod, asters and salvias for the sun. We are beginning to see good plumes on ornamental grasses as well. Chrysanthemums will soon be available at garden centers. While they are perennials, many gardeners do grow them as annuals. Pumpkins and gourds are also popping up and spring blooming bulbs for fall planting are beginning to make an appearance. You can buy your bulbs now, but let it cool off a bit before planting. Large, firm bulbs will give you the best display next spring. If you have room in your refrigerator you can pre-chill the bulbs before planting, but that isn't a requirement.

### Fig Rust

A common leaf disease of fig is Fig Rust, caused by *Physopella fici*. Symptoms begin as small, angular, light yellow-green flecks on

the leaves. The spots turn yellow to orange, brown, enlarge and spread as the growing season progresses. Rust pustules may be



observed on the undersides of the leaves. Heavily infected leaves die and fall from the tree prematurely. The tree may be completely defoliated in two or three weeks. Defoliation may cause the tree to become susceptible to cold injury when it tries to replace the lost foliage late in the season. Control of Fig Rust is dependent on the timing of fungicide applications. The disease can be controlled with one or two applications of neutral copper spray in May or early June. The first application should be made when the first leaves have reached full size. The second application should follow in three to four weeks.

#### Take Aways:

- **Apply the first application of copper when the first leaves are full size in May or early June.**
- **Apply the second application three to four weeks later.**

#### Master Gardener Zoom training

White County Cooperative Extension Service will present a web-based Master Gardener Training that will be held in our office on five Wednesdays:

**October 11, 25 and November 1, 8, & 15**

The classes will be held at the White County Extension Service offices in Searcy. Each day's sessions will run from 8:00 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m. Topics include basic botany, soils, fertilizers, pest control, fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, and lawns. University of Arkansas Extension Service specialists, county agents, and others teach the classes. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. For those that are hearing impaired, dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

You must attend all sessions to become a certified Master Gardener, (title cannot be used for commercial purposes). Applications and payment are due no later than SEPTEMBER 10, 2022.

Cost of the training is \$75, which includes the Master Gardener notebook and all training materials. For an application please call our office and speak with Cherie Bradley or email her at [cbradley@uada.edu](mailto:cbradley@uada.edu).

### Zinnia Leaf Spot

Nothing says summer like a cheerful bed of zinnias. They come in an enormous array of sizes, colors, and petal forms. Zinnias don't require much in the way of care except for average fertility, adequate soil moisture, and six hours of sun per day. Despite their easycare requirements, they can be bothered by several fungal diseases during humid, warm, weather. Cercospora Leaf Spot, caused by *Cercospora zinniae*, produces nearly round, reddish-brown, or dark purple spots with white or light gray centers. Leaves

that are heavily infected turn brown and dry. Alternaria leaf spot, caused by *Alternaria zinniae*, produces nearly identical symptoms, but may also infect the stems, petioles, and flowers.



Homeowners may use Spectracide Immunox; or Ferti-Lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide; or Ortho Max Garden Disease Control; or FertiLome Liquid Fungicide; or Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide Conc.; or Green Light Fung-Away Fungicide; or Bonide Fung-onil Multipurpose Fungicide; or Green Light Systemic Fungicide; or Ferti-Lome Halt Systemic; or Ortho Rose and Flower Disease Concentrate; or BioAdvanced Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, and Shrubs.

All zinnia debris should be removed from the garden at the end of the season.

#### Take Aways:

- **Avoid overhead irrigation.**
- **Begin fungicide treatment as first sign of disease.**
- **Clean up all zinnia plant debris at the end of the season.**

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