



Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

Jim Robbins
Extension Specialist -
Ornamental
Horticulture

Jim's Corner



Finally!! Adam's Nursery and Landscaping in Paragould certainly knows how to prune crape-myrtles correctly (left). This is in stark contrast to the more common 'crape-murder' (right).

Vol. 5, No. 3

July 2004

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Based on an informal poll of garden centers, it sounds like spring sales were mixed. For most, March was an excellent month, but then sales in April and May dipped slightly due to several rainy weekends. Tony Avent of Plant Delights (<http://www.plantdelights.com/>) in Raleigh, NC, told me that this is the first spring they have not seen an increase in sales since they started their mail-order nursery in 1991.

I was literally proofing the April 1 issue when news of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) broke. Because we were only a few days into this timely issue, I decided to wait until this newsletter to comment. First, let's talk about the name for the disease. The ANLA prefers using the terms "ramorum canker" or "ramorum leaf blight" over "sudden oak death," since the disease does not cause 'sudden death' of a plant and the host range is more diverse than

simply oaks. It looks like we are stuck with SOD. SOD is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*. Until now, all infections in California have been from the North American strain (mating type A2). The European genotype (A1) is thought to be more damaging to nursery crops. Future concern exists over the mixing of these two genotypes. Laboratory confirmation of the disease is slow and difficult and requires a very sensitive laboratory test (polymerase chain reaction) that takes several days. While I consider this issue very serious, I think we need to use logic and reason in analyzing the situation and not let emotions and unsubstantiated opinions carry the day. I actually heard about this disease at a national meeting held in Boston in July, 2003. One speaker noted that this disease may already be more widespread than we think. The fungus may already be present in the forest

(continued inside)

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Plant Profile

X Chitalpa tashkentensis Elias and Wisura Chitalpa

Dr. Jon T. Lindstrom
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Ever since Stan Brown at Blossomberry Nursery in Clarksville, AR, donated this plant to the University of Arkansas Horticulture department, I have sought to promote it. I've added it to the list of plants I cover in HORT 3103, Woody Landscape Plants, propagated it for sale at the Hort Club plant sale and now I write about it for the newsletter. Yet, chances are not one of the readers of this newsletter will find it for sale at the local garden center or nursery (I think this was the last one Stan had). That's a shame. For one, it is an intergeneric hybrid, so pair it with *X Cupressoscyparis leylandii* as a background and impress your botanical friends. This cross between *Chilopsis linearis*, the desert willow, and *Catalpa bignonioides*, the southern catalpa (two North American natives), originated from Tashkent in the former U.S.S.R. in the 1960s. It was introduced into the United States in the mid 1970s.

As a small flowering tree, few can match the length of bloom time seen on this plant. In Fayetteville, the plant begins to flower in mid to late May and will continue throughout the summer into early fall. The trumpet-shaped, pink to white flower is accented by a yellow throat with darker purple lines. The hybrid is sterile, so fruit will not be seen. Our tree, in the ground for six years, is approximately 12 feet high and wide. The canopy is open, allowing for all types of perennials to be grown underneath. It is a delightful place to sit and enjoy the other plants in the garden. The only problem evident on the tree is mildew, which can cause premature defoliation. The tree recovers quickly and



begins to flower anew. If given good air circulation and full sun, mildew should not be serious.

X Chitalpa tashkentensis propagates easily from summer cuttings treated with 1000-5000 ppm K-IBA and rooted under intermittent mist. Of the five I propagated last year, all over-wintered but only one sold at the plant sale. I guess people wanted the named clones 'Pink Dawn' or 'Morning Cloud.' Dr. Tom Ranney, along with his graduate student Richard T. Olsen, has been working with this plant at North Carolina State University. They have used colchicine to make tetraploid plants and restore fertility. Perhaps in the future we can look forward to new cultivars and other examples of *X Chitalpa* crosses to grace our summer gardens.

Jim's Corner (cont.)

ecosystem of many states, but no one has taken the time to look for it until now. This philosophy is also supported by Ralph Zingaro, who originally discovered the disease in California forests in 1994 (Greenbeam, April 27, 2004; <http://www.greenbeam.com/>).

The Arkansas State Plant Board has issued a 120-day emergency action. Host plants received during this period (starting March 25, 2004) from California are prohibited. APHIS and our Plant Board are doing an excellent job of monitoring and evaluating this situation. Several excellent websites are being maintained to keep you current on the situation. These

include <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/people/faculty/parke/OSUPramorum.pdf> (excellent photographs of symptoms), <http://www.ncpmc.org/sod/suddenoakdeathncipmc.pdf> and <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>.

Paul Shell of the Plant Board has the following comments: "We have completed our part of the National SOD Survey of 25 nurseries. No positive samples were found. This does not mean that there is no presence of this disease. The camellias from Monrovia could have been here for up to a year. Many of these plants were already sold when the news broke. **If any nursery, landscaper or homeowner thinks they have a plant with these symptoms, they need to call us or their Extension agent.**"

What's Up?

Labor Laws and Young Workers

by Laura Fine, Assistant State Director, ASBDC

Hundreds of Arkansas teens are looking for summer jobs, and many will be employed by small businesses. Protect your business and the teens you employ by being aware of the labor laws that apply to younger workers.

Under state and federal child labor laws, teens are limited in the industries in which they may work and the types of equipment they may use. For instance, 14- and 15-year-olds are prohibited from working in construction, manufacturing and warehousing. They may not use power-driven grinders, choppers, cutters or mixers; and they may not cook. Federal law prohibits 16- and 17-year-olds from some types of jobs. All teens under the age of 18 have limits on the number of hours they may work, both when school is in session and when school is not in session.

For more information on child labor, contact the Labor Standards Division, Arkansas Department of Labor at 682-9093 or log onto the Arkansas Department of Labor's website at www.arkansas.gov/labor. For information on federal child labor laws, contact the U.S. Department of Labor at 501-324-5292 or log onto their website at www.dol.gov.

Managing Employees

by Kathryn Peacock, Center Director, UAM College of Technology - McGehee, SBDC

Employee surveys reveal that a major source of job dissatisfaction comes from perceptions that other employees are treated more favorably. Such perceptions are truth as far as your employee is

concerned. A manager needs to be aware of the perceptions his/her actions may create, but becoming a mind reader just isn't practical. One helpful tool to help eliminate perceived favoritism and morale problems is the implementation of an employee handbook.

"We're like family," many business owners say. Even families have their misunderstandings – ones that may be prevented by setting forth expectations and policies for everyone. In the event of a dispute or poor performance review, a handbook can be the point of reference for the manager and employee to get back "on the same page" and prevent misunderstandings about the consequences of further problems.

Your Small Business Development Center has books to guide in writing an employee handbook, or go online to <http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov/test/wbc/docs/manage/hrpolicy1.html>.

Your handbook is a legal document, so be sure to have its contents reviewed by an attorney and ALWAYS be sure your actual practice matches your written policies.

What's New for Insecticides of Ornamentals?

by Frank A. Hale

Talstar (bifenthrin) insecticide is no longer being carried by Whitmire Micro-Gen. This FMC product is available as both a General Use Insecticide, Talstar Flowable (for ornamental landscape uses including greenhouse use), and a Restricted Use Insecticide, Talstar Nursery Flowable (ornamentals in greenhouses, lath houses, shade houses and outdoor nurseries, including non-bearing fruit and nut trees). Additionally, two new bifenthrin insecticides from Micro-Flo are Bifenthrin

Pro Multi-Insecticide Golf Course/Nursery and Bifenthrin Pro Multi-Insecticide.

FMC has another bifenthrin insecticide called Talstar One Multi-Insecticide. The broad label on Talstar One includes pre- and post-construction termite treatment, indoor and outdoor pest control, turf and ornamental landscape applications and treatment in food-handling areas. This product is not for commercial nurseries, greenhouses, sod farms, golf courses or grass grown for seed.

Another bifenthrin flowable insecticide from FMC is Onyx. It is used on lawns and landscape ornamental plants. It also has the higher trunk spray rates for ornamental trees to control wood boring insects, such as clearwing moth borers, flatheaded beetle borers, engraver beetles (*Ips* spp.), and *Dendroctonus* bark beetles, such as elm bark beetle, southern pine beetle and black turpentine beetle.

Flagship 25 WG (thiamethoxam) by Sengenta is a water-dispersible granule that contains 4 ounces of active ingredient per pound of formulated product. Thiamethoxam is in the neonicotinoid class of chemistry. It is absorbed by the plant when applied to the foliage and is very systemic when applied to the soil using banded or drench spray applications. Thiamethoxam is the same active ingredient as in Platinum and Actara, which are labeled for use on tobacco and listed fruit and vegetable crops. Flagship is labeled for use on ornamental plants grown in greenhouses, lath and shade houses, containers, field nurseries (including non-bearing fruit and nut trees) and on Christmas trees.

Discus Nursery Insecticide (0.70 % cyfluthrin plus 2.9% imidacloprid) by Olympic Horticultural Products is a



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broad-spectrum foliar and soil applied systemic insecticide for insect control on ornamentals and non-bearing fruit and nut trees in both field and container nurseries. While control of white grub larvae is on the label, it is currently **not approved** through the Japanese Beetle Domestic Harmonization Plan for Certification of B&B Nursery Stock to noninfested states.

Source: "WHAT'S HAPPENING?" The University of Tennessee/Agricultural Extension Service, Entomology and Plant Pathology – EPP #60, Volume No. 1 - March 5, 2004.



Extension Publications

FSA6111
Garden Phlox

FSA6115
Fruit Tree Nursery Sources

Upcoming Events

July 8-9 – The Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association Trade Show and Conference, Hamilton County Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN. Contact: TNLA, 931-473-3951, <http://www.tnla.com>.

July 13-15 – Arkansas Urban Forestry Council Annual Conference, "Urban Forestry in Arkansas...Practically Speaking," Conway. Contact: Christy Watts @ 800-958-5865.

August 12-14 – SNA 2004 - Southern Nursery Association Researcher's Conference and Trade Show. Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA. Contact: SNA, 770-953-3311, <http://www.sna.org>.

August 17 – **Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop**. Garvan Woodland Gardens. Contact: Jim Robbins at 501-671-2307 or jrobbins@uaex.edu for details and reservations.

August 26-28 – The Farwest Show. Portland, Oregon, Oregon Convention Center. Contact: Oregon Association of Nurserymen, <http://www.farwestshow.com>.

September 15-16 – Arkansas Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (ACNLP) **review and test**. Cooperative Extension Service Headquarters, Little Rock. Contact: AGIA at 501-225-0029.

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