HORTICULTURE UPDATE

It was a good year for raspberries. I talked with a grower, Russ in Lewis County, that reported harvesting many pounds of berries this year. I also harvested a lot from my backyard berry patch. Raspberries freeze well, especially if you freeze them individually first on a cookie sheet or spread them out flat and loosely in a freezer bag.

Just as summer raspberry picking is wrapping up, the Spotted Wing Drosophila has been found in Northeast Missouri. I found it in my backyard raspberries on July 13. I was picking raspberries and picked a few with juice leaking out. Upon further inspection I found larvae inside the berries. I also found two adult males on the leaves of the plants. What’s left of the summer raspberries will now become chicken food. This not good news for those of us with fall raspberries. Most likely you will have spotted wing drosophila in the fall berries. Monitor your blackberries as well. There a very good chance you will find them in ripening blackberries. Remember to make a monitoring trap if you want to know if they are present. If you’ve found them in your county, please email and let me know. I do not need to hear from Adair. I know they are here in the Kirksville area.

I have had some reports of tomato pinworm. The tomato pinworm feeds only on plants belonging to the nightshade family (Solanaceae). Common hosts include tomato, potato and eggplant. The weeds nightshade and horse nettle are also subject to attack. The adult is a small gray moth. Eggs, usually deposited on the undersides of leaves, hatch about one week later. Larvae mine the leaves for about six days and then fold leaves or bore into fruit for another six days. Mature fourth instar larvae either remain in folded leaves, or drop to the soil to pupate. About 12 days later, a new generation of adult moths emerges.

Because the pinworm can have several generations per season in Missouri, it may become more serious as the season advances. Sanitation (destruction of all plant debris and fields after harvest) and prevention are good control measures for tomato pinworms. Infestations usually result from transplants that are shipped in or grown in local greenhouses. Therefore, close inspection of new plants can prevent serious problems later in the season. Chemical control should be implemented as soon as infestations are observed. Insecticides you can use are Spinosad and Bt (one brand name is Dipel), both of which are considered organic.

Produce is really coming on strong now. Have you ever thought, what am I going to do with all of this produce, it’s all coming at once! Of course you could give some of it away to friends and family or even to a local food...
pantry, but what about trying new recipes. I've had articles in this newsletter before on canning and preserving, and many of you do that. It is a great way to preserve your harvest for the winter months. I personally like to freeze vegetables and can things like pizza sauce, chili sauce, pasta sauce, salsa, pickles and plums. There are many wonderful dishes you can make with your produce and there are many cookbooks available with recipes using fresh garden produce. My friend Teri gave me a "Fresh Market" cookbook a few years ago that I use regularly in meal preparation. I also like the Pioneer Woman's website for recipes. If you have a lot of vegetables, try some different stir fries. Use various meats like shrimp, beef, lamb or chicken. Be creative in your cooking and meal preparation. Don't be afraid to try new vegetables or recipes. My family ate kohlrabi for the first time this summer and we like it.

For information on canning and preserving or to have your pressure canner tested, contact your county extension center.

Lincoln University sources for tomato pinworm and spotted wing drosophila:

Tomato Pinworm— http://goo.gl/ncjYro
Spotted Wing Drosophila— http://goo.gl/v87DDR
Spotted Wing Drosophila— http://goo.gl/DeuDgE

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CARING FOR RHUBARB AND STRAWBERRY PLANTS AFTER HARVEST

I often receive questions from clients wondering what to do with their plants after harvest, particularly rhubarb and strawberries. Here are some tips on caring for those plants after picking is over.

Growing rhubarb? Place a 3- to 4-inch layer of clean straw, compost, or similar mulching material under the plant to help control weeds and conserve soil moisture for plant growth and development. Flower stalks should be removed as they appear, as they deplete reserves from the crown that supports vegetative growth. Rhubarb, like most vegetables, requires regular irrigation during dry weather. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Rhubarb requires annual applications of fertilizer for good growth and continued production. Fertilize each plant with a handful of a 5-10-10 fertilizer in the spring. A midsummer fertilizer application will also benefit these vigorous plants.

After the last harvest, the plants should be allowed to grow until killed by frost. Rhubarb leaves may be added to your compost pile. While the leaves contain oxalic acid, this rapidly decomposes in the compost pile and has no negative effect on the quality of the compost. When a rhubarb crown is 6 to 10 years old, it may be dug up and divided. This should be done as early in the spring as possible. Insert a shovel about 6 inches into the ground next to the base of the plant and lift out the entire crown. Some roots will break off and be left in the ground.

Do you grow strawberries and are not sure what to do after harvest? When picking time is over, decide what to do with your strawberry bed. The two options are:

- Simply re-fruit the bed by renovating the plants immediately after harvest. First, remove weeds from row middles. Next, mow old tops off of the strawberry plants to renovate or renew the bed. Set lawn mower high enough to remove strawberry leaves but not injure crowns. Then use a rototiller or spade to cut each plant row to a 6-inch width. This sounds drastic, but do it! Runner plants from the 6-inch strip of "mother" plants will form a new matted row of plants. Apply 5 pounds of 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 feet of row (10 pounds if sawdust is used as a mulch). Apply about 1-1/2 to 2 inches of water a week to the newly forming bed during June, July and August (include rainfall in total). To prevent overcrowding of plants and reduce the incidence of leaf diseases, thin plants to 5 to 7 plants per square foot. This method of renovation can be used to fruit the strawberry bed for a total of three or four years. During the rest of the growing season, irrigate to provide 1 inch of water per week, and continue to control weeds.

- Replant beds after harvesting berries for three or four years. After several years, strawberry plants tend to become infected with several leaf diseases and have declining yields. When this occurs, plants infected with diseases may be removed and a different crop can be planted on this site. Establish a new strawberry bed next spring where another crop was previously planted. To avoid infecting new strawberry plants with verticillium wilt, do not plant them where tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, okra, raspberries or vine crops were planted within the past three years.

Source: http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1631.html; http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6135
THE AMAZING CUCUMBER!

This information was in The New York Times as part of their “Spotlight on the Home” series that highlighted creative and fanciful ways to solve common problems.

Did you know...........

1. Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need every day, just one cucumber contains Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Folic Acid, Vitamin C, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Zinc.

2. Feeling tired in the afternoon, put down the caffeinated soda and pick up a cucumber. Cucumbers are a good source of B vitamins and carbohydrates that can provide that quick pick-me-up that can last for hours.

3. Tired of your bathroom mirror fogging up after a shower? Try rubbing a cucumber slice along the mirror, it will eliminate the fog and provide a soothing, spa-like fragrance.

4. Are grubs and slugs ruining your planting beds? Place a few slices in a small pie tin and your garden will be free of pests all season long. The chemicals in the cucumber react with the aluminum to give off a scent undetectable to humans but drive garden pests crazy and make them flee the area.

5. Looking for a fast and easy way to remove cellulite before going out or to the pool? Try rubbing a slice or two of cucumbers along your problem area for a few minutes, the phytochemicals in the cucumber cause the collagen in your skin to tighten, firming up the outer layer and reducing the visibility of cellulite. Works great on wrinkles too!!!

6. Want to avoid a hangover or terrible headache? Eat a few cucumber slices before going to bed and wake up refreshed and headache free. Cucumbers contain enough sugar, B vitamins and electrolytes to replenish essential nutrients the body lost, keeping everything in equilibrium, avoiding both a hangover and headache!!

7. Looking to fight off that afternoon or evening snacking binge? Cucumbers have been used for centuries and often used by European trappers, traders and explores for quick meals to thwart off starvation.

8. Have an important meeting or job interview and you realize that you don't have enough time to polish your shoes? Rub a freshly cut cucumber over the shoe, its chemicals will provide a quick and durable shine that not only looks great but also repels water.

9. Out of WD 40 and need to fix a squeaky hinge? Take a cucumber slice and rub it along the problematic hinge, and voila, the squeak is gone!

10. Stressed out and don't have time for massage, facial or visit to the spa? Cut up an entire cucumber and place it in a boiling pot of water, the chemicals and nutrients from the cucumber with react with the boiling water and be released in the steam, creating a soothing, relaxing aroma that has been shown the reduce stress in new mothers and college students during final exams.

11. Just finish a business lunch and realize you don't have gum or mints? Take a slice of cucumber and press it to the roof of your mouth with your tongue for 30 seconds to eliminate bad breath, the phytochemicals will kill the bacteria in your mouth responsible for causing bad breath.

12. Looking for a 'green' way to clean your faucets, sinks or stainless steel? Take a slice of cucumber and rub it on the surface you want to clean, not only will it remove years of tarnish and bring back the shine, but is won't leave streaks and won't harm you fingers or fingernails while you clean.

13. Using a pen and made a mistake? Take the outside of the cucumber and slowly use it to erase the pen writing, also works great on crayons and markers that the kids have used to decorate the walls!!

Pass this along to everybody you know who is looking for better and safer ways to solve life's every-day problems.
August Gardening Tips

Ornamentals
- Deadhead annuals and perennials as needed.
- Continue spraying roses that are susceptible to black spot and other fungal diseases. Roses should receive no further nitrogen fertilizer after August 15th.
- Divide bearded iris now. Replant so tops of rhizomes are just above ground level.
- Prune to shape hedges for the last time this season.
- Evergreens can be planted or transplanted now to ensure good rooting before winter arrives. Water both the plant and the planting site several days before moving.
- Soak shrubs periodically during dry spells with enough water to moisten the soil to a depth of 8-10 inches.
- Once bagworms reach full size, insecticides are ineffective. Pruning off and burning large bags provides better control.
- Spray black locust trees to protect against damage by locust borer.
- Watch Scotch and Austrian pines for Zimmerman pine moth damage. Yellowing or browning of branch tips and presence of pitch tubes near leaf whorls are indicative. Prune and destroy infected parts.
- Monitor plants for spider mite activity. Hose these pests off with a forceful spray of water.
- Second generation pine needle scale crawlers may be present on Mugo pine now.

Vegetables
- Compost or till under residues from harvested crops.
- Broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower transplants should be set out now for the fall garden.
- Cure onions in a warm, dry place for 2 weeks before storing.
- Sow seeds of beans, beets, spinach, and turnips for the fall garden. Spinach may germinate better if seeds are refrigerated for one week before planting.
- Begin planting lettuce and radishes the last 2 weeks of August.
- Pinch the growing tips of gourds once adequate fruit set is achieved. This directs energy into ripening fruits, rather than vine production.

Fruit
- Prop up branches of fruit trees that are threatening to break under the weight of a heavy crop.
- Thornless blackberries are ripening during the first week of August.
- Spray peach and other stone fruits to protect against peach tree borers.
- Sprays will be necessary to protect late peaches from oriental fruit moth damage.
- Cultivate strawberries. Weed preventers can be applied immediately after fertilizing.
- Watch for fall webworm activity now.

Turfgrass
- Apply insecticides now for grub control on lawns.
- Lawns scheduled for renovation this fall should be killed with Roundup. Have soil tested to determine fertility needs.
- During the last week in August, dormant lawns should be soaked to encourage strong fall growth.

-Missouri Botanical Garden-

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21-November 6: Master Gardener Training in Kirksville, Adair County Extension Center, 1 to 4 p.m. There will be 2 hours of classroom instruction and 1 hour of garden tours for most classes. Cost is $150. Registration forms are available. Call the Adair County Extension Center at 660-665-9866 or download it from our website at http://extension.missouri.edu/adair. The deadline to register is August 15.

August 31: Online Master Gardener training begins. Go to this link for details and to register—http://extension.missouri.edu/mg/home.aspx If you are in the NE region of Missouri and plan to take Master Gardener training online, please let me know.

September 4: Tomato Festival, 4 to 7 p.m., Bradford Extension and Research Farm, Columbia.