How to Calibrate your Sprayer, a short demonstration, October, 12, 2016, 12 pm, Farmers Association, Nashville.

2016 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, November 1-4, 2016, Arlington, TX.

Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Savannah Georgia, January 5-8, 2017.

Pesticide Applicators’ Training - I must obtain my license to teach it first, so I may work with neighboring counties for these upcoming seasons. No need to worry, it is on my agenda. We will plan the first one sometime in November.

Fall Planting

From the Home Gardening Planting chart, October is the time of year to plant cover crops, lettuce, shallots, leeks, garlic, collards, mustard, turnips, spinach and strawberries. November is the time to plant strawberries, garlic, collards, turnips, salad greens, and cover crops. This time of year is also important to apply any lime that is needed, test soil if unsure what amounts of lime are needed, and to know any other fertilizer requirements. It is also a good time to consider composting.
**Wet Weather**

The rainfall in August totaled 6.91 inches for Howard County - well above the average of 2.8 inches. While some consider it a blessing, for most it did more harm than good. Among the many inconveniences of the rain was not being able to spray for the army worms that were eating away at our crops and lawns. Another was the inability to harvest crops in the rain and mud. Lastly the rain even damaged the crops, so even if producers were able to harvest them, they were worthless.

The wet ground has left producers unable to harvest crops, whether from not being able to drive combines and tractors through large row crops or simply not being able to wade through the mud to get to that home garden. In addition to the wet ground, rain and wind gusts caused lodging, the blowing over of crops where the combine cannot reach it properly.

For small gardens this could be an issue if when the plant is blown over it damages/bruises the produce.

**Army Worms**

Unfortunately, the slow steady rain has only fueled the pests. Typical producers have had to spray multiple times to eradicate the army worm pests, as they were in multiple stages of development. If you are still needing to spray this late in the year, keep in mind pesticide needs to be applied to dry foliage and, depending on the specific product, needs at least two hours of drying time to be rainfast. Even if you think your army worm invasion is over, it is important to monitor your lawn and flower beds in case there are some late-in-the-season worms left. Remember, there is no need to apply expensive pesticide if the worms are only a few and can be physically removed. The individual size of army worms is important to monitor, too because once they have matured and are 1.5 inch in length, applying pesticide is much less effective, as they are close to molting. For home gardens and lawns there are various different pesticides that can be used. For example, I used common Sevin Dust in my own flower beds and yard; it cleared out the worms right away. I do have an area where I did not apply Sevin Dust because I have only seen one worm and was able to physically remove it.

![Fall armyworm larval head](image1.png)

**Brown Rot**

For small producers and home gardens, the biggest issue with this wet weather is damage to produce. Brown rot is a fungal disease that affects primarily peaches, but other stone fruits as well. It is most common about 2-3 weeks before harvest, but this wet weather only fuels it. Flowers will turn and become a gummy mass. The infection travels down and can girdle the twig. Infected tissue becomes covered with a grayish tan spore mass. This spore mass can be an outlet for additional infections. Brown rot will appear on ripening to mature fruit as a fast-growing, firm, brown decay. The spore masses eventually cover the fruit and the spore mass causes mummification on the tree. Removing these mummified fruits is very important to avoid spreading the disease. It is also important to spray the infected areas with pesticide to insure the disease will not spread. Homeowners may use Ortho Home Orchard Spray, Bonide Fruit Tree Spray or Spectracide Immunox, to name a few.
**Surprise Lilies**

These lilies were definitely a surprise for me! I walked into my backyard just last week and saw the buds coming up from the ground, these are not common in Texas, so I had to do some research once I found out what they were. The scientific name for Spider or Surprise lilies (with red blooms) is *Lycoris radiata*. L. radiata are in the same family as the amaryllis and were introduced to Arkansas from Japan after the Civil War. These plants are somewhat fragrant and multiply quickly. The stem is bare while in bloom and foliage appears later in the season. These lilies typically have foliage all winter. If you wish to transplant these bulbs to a more pleasing area, they may be moved either while the foliage is up, in the fall after it blooms, or when the flowers begin to fade and die back in late winter/early spring. Replant immediately at the same depth they are currently growing. Replanting may cause them to not bloom for a season, but they should recover. These are often found growing in ditches, old home sites, and cemeteries; they are a welcomed sight, resembling the end of summer.

**About Me**

These first few newsletters I’m going to tell you a little bit about myself, what I like to do this time of year, etc. Probably the hottest topic right now is the Aggies beat the Razorbacks! What a game it was; I was there; it was exciting! Since I am an Aggie, I have been to the annual game at Cowboys Stadium for the last 3 years now. It is becoming a tradition for my other fellow Aggies and me. It has more meaning to it now, since I do work for the University of Arkansas. I love sports and the rivalry that comes with it. It’s all in good fun! I am hoping to make it out to a few local high school games; I know we have some talented teams in the county.

I have always been crafty, and enjoyed designing flower arrangements. It seems that Howard County Fair and SWAR District Fair agrees with me! I received first place at both with a holiday (Fall) flower arrangement.

My first Howard County Fair, as the Extension agent was a success! Thank you all who assisted and came out.
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Sincerely,

Kaycee M. Davis
County Extension Agent-Agriculture