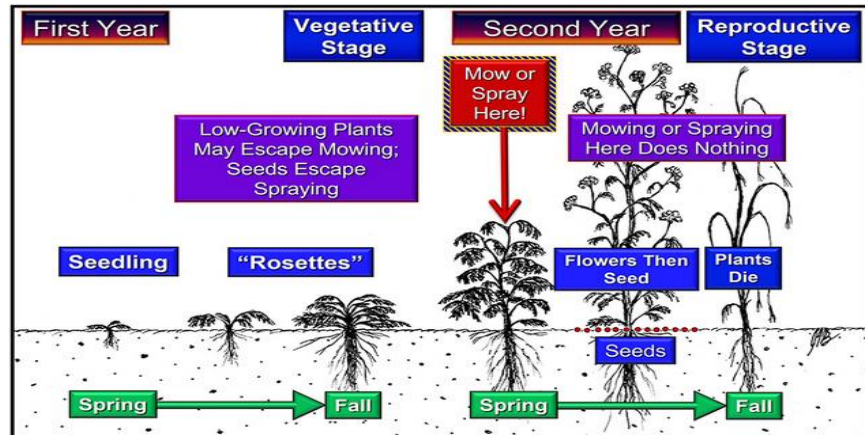


Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

May 20th, 2022



Knock out Poison Hemlock Before it becomes a Larger Problem!

Poison Hemlock is in the vegetative stage in Auglaize and surrounding counties. It will bolt to flowering and seed production before you know it, especially with summer like temperatures. It is important to control it before it goes to bloom and reseeds for next year. Poison Hemlock is a biennial plant. It grows over two seasons. The first year of growth is low and close to the ground, forming a tight rosette, leading to a lot of this weed being overlooked and missed by mowing and herbicide application. The second year of growth is when the plant will bolt and produce large erect multi branched stems topped

with umbrella like flowers. After they flower and produce seed they will die. The seeds of poison hemlock can remain viable for many years; therefore, it is important to kill them before seed production. Treatment for poison hemlock includes aggressive mowing to prevent flowering and seed production. Some commonly available herbicides that are generally effective on this weed include glyphosate, 2-4D, Remedy Ultra, and Crossbow. All treatment methods are most effective when employed while the plants are less than 2 feet tall. All parts of the plant are poisonous,

leaves, stems, seeds, and roots. However, according to Joe Boggs of Ohio State Extension, the toxins must be ingested or enter the body through our eyes, nasal passages, or cuts in our skin to induce the poisoning. Gloves and long sleeves should be worn while handling this weed to reduce the risk of accidental ingestion. Follow this link to the [BYGL](#) article, and this link for the [livestock](#) article.

Rhizosphaera Needle Cast

>> CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Why are my pine trees dying has been a resounding question in the office for the last two weeks. The majority of these questions pertaining to spruce trees. Spruce trees are difficult to diagnose because it can be 2-3 years before we see any indication of a problem and by then it is usually too late to save the tree. Rhizosphaera needle cast, also known as Needle Cast Disease, is the most prevalent result that I am finding while doing my research. What is this disease? Needle Cast Disease is a fungal infection of spruce trees that causes needles to turn brown and fall off. When a tree is stressed from drought, poor planting practices, or other factors, such as too much water, or extreme temperature swings like we have had recently, it is more likely to suffer from Rhizosphaera needle cast.



“Tiny raised black dots in lines on needles are the spore producing structures of the Rhizosphaera fungus”

You can form a solid hypothesis in the field by doing the following, observe the tree, are the new needles at the tip of the branches still green, but the older needles have turned brown or a purplish color? Use a magnifying glass to look closely at the needles, do you see tiny black bumps in neat rows? These are the spore producing structures of the fungus.

Discolored needles will fall off in the summer and fall, the trees will have fewer needles near the trunk and look thin, damage typically starts at the bottom and moves up the tree. As the disease increases in the tree the branches will die. Lab analysis is necessary to distinguish Rhizosphaera needle cast from other diseases.



How to manage Rhizosphere needle Cast

There are some management practices that can be used to reduce the likelihood of getting Needle Cast Disease in your trees.

1. Plant disease tolerant trees
2. Maintain good air circulation around your trees
3. Mulch under your trees
4. Do not allow sprinklers to spray needles
5. Use an appropriate fungicide, ALWAYS follow the label instructions for any pesticide!

Follow this link for more information on [Rhizosphaera](#) Needle Cast

Me-Time is Valuable Time

Keeping Self-Care part of your health routine.

Taking time for yourself may be more productive than trying to spend extra time on work activities according to a couple professors at The Ohio State University! According to Selin Malkoc and Rebecca Walker Reczek viewing leisure time as wasteful can be damaging to our mental health! They suggest that we look at our leisure time not as “me time” but as self-care that is necessary for our mental well-being. You can also look at your relaxing time as a way to achieve other goals, such as building family relationships or maintaining your social network. People tend to put off activities because they feel responsibilities should be out of the way first, but the fact is our responsibilities never end. We only rob ourselves of life’s small pleasures when we attempt to create the perfect time for “me-time.” I have a few things that I do for “me-time”

1. Hiking
2. Horseback riding
3. Watching documentaries on



Agriculture

4. Spending time with my kids
5. Running
6. Going for a drive
7. Calling a friend
8. Taking photos
9. Church
10. VR gaming

Take some time for yourself and jot down a few things you do for enjoyment and pencil them in your schedule, I go to the field early and take a 15-minute walk around the barn to relax before I start my baler. If you have some tricks that you would like to share, please send them to me and I will add them to my list and at the bottom of the next newsletter. You can email them to me at Hampton.297@osu.edu

Pricing Standing Forages



According to the Buckeye Dairy News article on pricing forages, whether they are vegetative, small grain crops, pure grasses, pure legumes or grass legume mixes. The fundamental considerations are about the same.

1. Determine market price of an equivalent crop

2. Calculate and apply deductions:

- a. Cost of harvest, including mowing, tedding, and raking
- b. Cost of baling
- c. Cost of hauling
- d. Risk – nutrient variation
- e. Risk – weather, etc.

3. Adjustments: These optional adjustments can be made if a forage analysis is done post-harvest:

- a. Dry matter
- b. Feed value – If this option is chosen, then there is no deduction made for risk of nutrient variation (d above).

This is not a quick process, but when broken down into these steps, it is doable, easy to document and provides a framework for the buyer and seller. Follow this [link](#) for tools and factsheets

May Events



25th Mercer County Lawn and Garden Talks, 6:00pm, 220 W. Livingston Street Room B252 in Celina. The topic will be raised bed gardening.

9th-21st Outdoor plant swap at the St. Mary's library Sponsored by the Heritage trails park district and St. Mary's public library.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

OSU Extension Auglaize County

Jamie Hampton ANR Extension Educator

208 Blackhoof Street

Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895