



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

October, November, December
Newsletter 2015

*Extension Agent and Coordinator,
Belivar County*

News from the County
Extension Coordinator



The county association meeting for October will be held on October 12th at noon and Dr. Andrea Marble will have the educational program. The nomination committee will be organized at this meeting. Officers for the 2016 year will need to be in place in December. November will be a special treat since our meeting will take place at Judy Murrah's home on November 9th at noon. I will send a reminder with her address closer to the date. Service and educational hours for this year will need to be reported by November 30th. A refresher class on reporting hours has been set for Monday, November 2nd at noon. The Christmas party/meeting will take place at noon on Monday, December 14th. Thank all

of you who have participated with the MG Radio Segment. We do have volunteers signed up to get through this year. However, in November volunteers will need to begin signing up for the new year. This is great way to let people know about the county association and what all you are doing for the community. Of course, it is also a good way to help with those gardening questions that people may have as well. We have had to get off schedule a couple of times due to things that were out of our control but hopefully the event will become more regular and people will know when to "tune in". The Northwest Region MG Conference will take place in Hernando (hosted by Desoto County) on October 31st.



Protect Potted Plants

from the freeze way before the freeze is expected to arrive. Wipe all pots with a cloth dipped in a diluted Clorox solution (1 cup Clorox to 9 cups water). Be sure to check the bottom of the pots. This is where slugs and other little critters hide. Clean these off. Then you can trim back the plants. By doing this they won't take up as much room and by trimming the plant, you are forcing it to produce new leaves and shoots. These will develop under indoor conditions and will not have to go through a period of adjusting to the new environment (acclimatization). The old foliage produced outside under ideal growing conditions can react to the change in environment by turning yellow and falling off. Trimming the plant lessens the percentage of old foliage.



Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers want YOU! The Fall Delta Area MHV Meeting will take place in

Washington County on October 14th. The theme is Bite of Fall. They have an exciting program planned with many demonstrations consisting of wreath making, hair pins/bows and holiday delicacies. October was international month and everyone enjoyed the program on "Italian Heritage". Please remember the meeting time for November will be 11:30 a.m. and all members will need to bring a covered dish for the Thanksgiving Luncheon. It is time to start gathering canned goods for your community service project that takes place in December. The club will present Helping Hands with canned items for the month of December. December's meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on December 1st. All members are asked to bring their favorite Christmas finger food. Drinks will be provided. Thank you to those who participated in the Aris Project Pillow Case sewing project and thank you to those who helped sew the oversized Christmas bags for the children's hospital. December will be the planning month for 2016 so be thinking about your goals for the new year. It is time to pay your 2016 dues which are \$10.00. Please make your check payable to Bolivar county MHV. Dues will need to be collected before December 1st. Please make sure you complete a new MHV enrollment form when you submit your dues.



Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women. Getting mammograms regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends that if you are 50 to 74 years old, be sure to have a screening mammogram every two years. If you are 40 to 49 years old, talk to your doctor about when to start and how often to get a screening mammogram. There are different symptoms of breast cancer, and some people have no symptoms at all. If you have any signs that worry you, see your doctor right away. The main factors that influence your risk for breast cancer include being a woman, being older (most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older), and having changes in your breast cancer genes. Most women who get breast cancer have no known risk factors and no history of the disease in their families. There are things you can do to help lower your breast cancer risk. Although breast cancer screening cannot prevent breast cancer, it can help find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat. Talk to your doctor about which breast cancer screening tests are right for you, and when you should have them. Men also get breast cancer, but it is not very common. Less than 1% of breast cancers occur in men. Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older. About 11% of all new cases of breast cancer in the United States are found in women younger than 45 years of age.



The MDFWW Association will hold its fourth quarter

meeting at noon on Thursday, December 10th. This meeting serves as the business and planning meeting for the 2016 year. Please be thinking about educational programs that you would like to hear more about and who you would like to hear deliver those programs and bring your ideas to the table for discussion at the December meeting. The Annual MFA Meeting is rapidly approaching! It's not too late to register for our meeting being held October 20-22 at The Mill Conference Center in Starkville, Mississippi. Speakers invited to be on program this year include Mississippi State University President Dr. Mark Keenum, Winston Plywood President and General Manager Dr. Richard Baldwin, Georgia Institute of Technology Senior Advisor for Industry and Strategy Ken Stewart and MSU Head Baseball Coach John Cohen. The 2015 MFA Annual Meeting registration form can be found online through the MFA website until October 13th. After this date, you must register on-site. *If you register online, make sure to log in to receive your membership discount.* If you have any questions about the 2015 Annual Meeting or registration, feel free to call their office at 601.354.4936.

The Fall Flower & Garden Fest

is set for Oct. 16 and 17 at the MSU Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station in Crystal Springs. This collaboration is part of the agricultural alliance's efforts, with its partners, to hold field days across the state at local demonstration farms.

"These hands-on learning opportunities are critical to farmer success," said Keith Benson, manager of the Alliance for Sustainable Agricultural Production. "They encourage networking, foster future leadership and provide access to new ideas and information."

A short alliance meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. on Oct. 16 at the Fall Flower & Garden Fest. Participants will gather at the picnic tables near the food vendors. Topics of discussion will include vendor opportunities, legal assistance to farmers, growing cool-season crops and introduction of the root vegetable taro.

The Fall Flower & Garden Fest opens at 9 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. both days. The alliance meeting, fest admission and on-site parking are free. To register for the alliance meeting or to host an upcoming field day, contact Benson at keithmdp@yahoo.com.

The Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station is located about 25 miles south of Jackson off of Highway 51 at 2024 Experiment Station Road in Crystal Springs.

Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS)

is now present in Mississippi. CMBS was first detected in Ocean Springs in March of 2015, and in August of this same year it was documented in Olive Branch. This non-native scale is a serious threat to southern crape myrtles. It threatens to turn what has historically been a beautiful, low-maintenance landscape tree into an unsightly, high maintenance landscape tree! Because of this threat, we need to continue to be alert for crape myrtle bark scale in other areas of the state and control it aggressively if detected. Crape myrtle bark scale is pretty easy to spot and identify. Here's what to look for: 1} Crape myrtles with heavy accumulations of black sooty mold on the trunk. 2} Crape myrtles with patches of white felt like material on the twigs and trunk, especially around cracks and crevices and around pruning scars. Heavily infested twigs may be encrusted with scale. 3} Adult female scales are covered with a soft, off-white felt-like material and are about 1/10 inch long. 4} Use a toothpick, knife point, or small twig to break the felt-like covering and the insects will bleed red or pink, or you may actually see the pinkish eggs or crawlers underneath.

Note: crape myrtles that have or had heavy infestations of aphids will also have heavy accumulations of sooty mold on the trunks, but they will not have the other symptoms.

If you detect this insect, please notify me or a Master Gardener. Please take a few pictures, collect a sample of the adult scale, preserve in alcohol, and get the sample to me so I can send to MSU. Also, please phone the Bureau of Plant Industry at 662-325-3390 and report possible detections. Please include information on where and when the sample was collected.

Treatment Program Options for Crape Myrtle Bark Scale:

Use a soft bristle brush, water, and a bit of dish washing liquid to scrub heavy accumulations of scale and sooty mold from trunks of heavily infested trees. Although CMBS also occurs higher in the tree on twigs and limbs that can't practically be washed, this trunk washing will improve appearance of the tree and make it easier to monitor the long-term effectiveness of the treatment program. Treat infested trees with a soil-applied, or basal trunk-applied, systemic insecticide containing imidacloprid (Merit, and Bayer Tree and Shrub Insect Control are examples) or dinotefuran (Safari, Zylam, and Ortho Tree and Shrub Insect Control are examples). Ideally, this treatment should be applied in late spring before trees begin to bloom (late April-May), but, depending on method of application, treatments of these products may be applied later in the season when necessary. Be sure to observe pollinator protection precautions specified on the label. These soil-applied/trunk-applied systemics are the most effective and easiest to apply treatments available for CMBS, but these treatments may only be applied one time per season and are not likely to give 100% control when used alone. Be sure to retreat with a soil-applied/trunk-applied systemic the following year, even if there are no signs of continued infestation because low level infestations of CMBS are difficult to detect. Although some of these treatments are also labeled for application as foliar sprays to non-blooming plants, foliar sprays of imidacloprid or dinotefuran are not recommended because soil-applied/trunk-applied treatments usually provide better/longer-lasting control. Soil drenches, soil injection, or basal trunk sprays are the preferred treatment methods for these products.