



# North Carolina Pest News

Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology

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## CAUTION !

*The information and recommendations in this newsletter are applicable to North Carolina and may not apply in other areas.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Field Days Scheduled

The 2013 Landscape Professional Field Day, co-sponsored by the North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc., will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, beginning at 8:45 a.m., at the JC Raulston Arboretum and Horticulture Field Laboratory, 4415 Beryl Road, Raleigh, North Carolina. Additional information, including a preregistration form, is available at [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/writing/Field\\_Days/2013-landscape-professional.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/writing/Field_Days/2013-landscape-professional.pdf).

The Blueberry Field Day, sponsored by the North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will start at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 2013, at the Castle Hayne Research Station (Ideal Farm), Castle Hayne, North Carolina. For more information, please contact Bill Cline, Department of Plant Pathology ([bill\\_cline@ncsu.edu](mailto:bill_cline@ncsu.edu)).

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## FIELD AND FORAGE CROPS

From: Jack Bacheler, Extension Entomologist

### Cotton Producers Itchy

We'll keep this update very short as cotton producers are just now beginning to plant cotton in earnest in areas where soils are dry enough to get into fields. The unseasonably cooler temperatures probably will not hold growers back and warmer temperatures seem to be the rule starting on May 15. With our present varieties, we generally regard May 20 or a little beyond, as the cotton planting sweet spot.

Fortunately, the combination of cool and rainy weather has delayed both thrips development and probably has caused some mortality. Our late April-planted cotton at Rocky Mount is just now coming out of the ground, though poorly, and replanting may be needed. Presently, it's too early to get an initial handle on thrips levels. By this next week, we should be able to begin sampling cotton seedlings and get an appreciation of our early season thrips levels and possible damage.

## RESIDENCES, STRUCTURES AND COMMUNITIES

From: Mike Waldvogel, Extension Entomology

### Rains Will Lead to Mosquito Activity

The warming temperatures and recent spate of heavy rains will lead to increased mosquito activity in the next week. Before people start planning their chemical assault on the biting menaces, they can put a reasonable dent in populations simply by engaging in some "Tip and Toss" (which has nothing to do with beer and watching TV). Our most common mosquito pest is the Asian tiger mosquito which takes advantage of water-filled objects as breeding sites. So, now is a good time to correct problems before you start hearing that familiar buzz of mosquitoes in your ear when you're sitting outdoors in the evening:

- Empty or (preferably) get rid of those objects that collect water – old cans, tires, and trash cans missing their lids.
  - Put fresh water in bird baths and pet water bowls (both will be grateful for the new water!).
  - The purpose of your rain gutters is to collect rain water, not pine needles, leaves, and other debris. Remove debris from your gutters and make sure water runs freely through them. And make sure rainwater doesn't just splash and pool at the end of a downspout. Make sure it drains out into your yard.
  - Likewise, drainage ditches in front of your property are not meant to become "mosquito swimming pools". Clear them of debris and vegetation so that they don't impound water and let it stagnate.
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- If you're going to collect rainwater to save for watering your gardens, make sure you have a screen over the top to keep out debris and mosquitoes that are hunting for a good place to lay eggs.

Pass along these suggestions to your neighbors as well because mosquito control takes a community effort to truly succeed.

You can find these details and more information about mosquito control on our website: <http://insects.ncsu.edu/Urban/mosquito.htm>.

*Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University or North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of North Carolina Cooperative Extension.*