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Spider mite, not drought, may cause trees to brown

Recent prolonged hot, dry weather may prompt many homeowners to incorrectly conclude that their spruce, balsam, pine, fir and hemlock trees are turning brown as a result of heat and lack of moisture.

The real culprit in many cases is the spider mite, an insect smaller than the printed period at the end of this sentence. Rudy Scheibner, Extension entomologist in the UK College of Agriculture, said the mites, although small, seem to be quite plentiful this year.

"The damage these insects cause resembles the way a tree will respond to drought, and this can fool many homeowners into ignoring a significant threat to very valuable trees in their landscape, or trying to correct the problem by watering," Scheibner said.

ONE KEY difference between drought damage and spider mite damage is the drooping of small branches. A drought-stressed tree will droop. Another thing Scheibner said to look for is where the damage begins to appear.

"Spider mites will start in the interior of the tree, near the trunk. Drought and heat damage often are seen first at the branch ends," Scheibner said. Also, hemlock trees will turn brown under drought stress, but white under spider mite stress.

To determine if a tree is infested with spider mites, slap a small branch against the palm of the hand over a piece of white paper or cloth. Then watch the tiny specks that land on the paper or cloth for a minute or two to see if any of them begin to move.

IF THEY MOVE they're probably spider mites, if not, they're probably dirt, bits of the tree itself or dead mites. If the tree is infested it should be sprayed with malathion or diazinon.

"Spray it twice, 10 days apart. Most insecticides do not kill the eggs, so you need to spray the tree and then spray it again 10 days later to kill the mites that have hatched since the first spraying, and before they get a chance to lay more eggs," Scheibner said.

Study shows Hopkins not big spender

U.S. Representative Larry Hopkins (R-4th) received the highest rating of the nine member Kentucky Congressional delegation in an annual anti-spending study recently compiled by the 150,000 member, non-partisan National Taxpayers Union (NTU).

The study analyzed how votes cast by House and Senate members on 625 key votes concerned with reducing taxes, government waste and spending, during the first session of the 99th Congress.

Hopkins' score put him in the 87th percentile of all Congressmen for votes in support for taxpayers interests.

This marks the third consecutive year that Hopkins has received the Highest NTU ranking of all Kentucky congressmen and senators.

Among the votes that Hopkins cast during the last Congress were ones to reduce appropriations for Congressional mailing privileges, to reduce the defense budget by $10 billion and to delete $18,400 from the budget for former President's expenses.

"I am pleased to have been honored by the National Taxpayers Union," Hopkins said.

"When I first ran for Congress I pledged to do my part to help get runaway government spending under control and I intend to continue honoring that pledge to keep our resources where they belong - in the pockets of productive American working people and not in the federal treasury," he said.

Paso Fino Show at horse park

The paso fino, a breed of horse known for its beauty and style, will be featured at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington July 11-13.

The Great Lakes Paso Fino Federation Show will boast 38 classes of riding and show competition and will attract exhibitors from throughout the Midwest. According to the show's director, Marylyn Paul, park visitors are welcome to visit the barns to see the unique horses and talk with owners. For more information about the show, call the park at (606) 233-4303.

The horse park is part of the Kentucky Tourism Cabinet.

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Stock report

FARMERS STOCKYARDS, INC.
Flemingsburg, June 25, 1986

HOGS RECEIPTS	258
Packers	61.00
Heavies	58.00
	55.00-48.00
Sows	39.00-42.00
Boars	130.00-140.00
Sows and Pigs	11.00-31.00
Shoats	509
CATTLE RECEIPTS	41.00-70.00
Steers	36.00-68.00
Heifers	42.00-70.00
Baby Beeves	30.00-42.50
Slaughter Cows	30.00-40.00
Slaughter Bulls	210.00-620.00
Cows by Head	220.00-715.00
Cow and Calf by head	260.00
Stock Bulls	85.00-215.00
Stockers	189
CALVES RECEIPTS	69.00-76.00
Top Veals	68.00-68.00
Medium	20.00-130.00
Baby	13
LAMBS RECEIPTS	68.00
Tops	1,019
TOTAL RECEIPTS	Steady
Feeder Cattle Sale Wednesday, July 9 at 2 p.m. for all breeds.	
For hauling arrangements, call 845-2421.	

PARIS STOCKYARDS
June 25-26, 1986

CATTLE RECEIPTS	1,353
SLAUGHTER COWS	
Price trend	Steady
Breaking utility	35.50-42.00
Boning utility	30.00-41.00
Canner	26.00-36.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS	
Price trend	Steady
Yield grade 1-2	46.00-56.50
VEALERS	
Price trend	Steady
Choice	72.00/77.00
FEEDER STEERS. Medium No. 1	
Price trend	2.00-3.00 higher
300-400 lbs.	65.00-73.00
400-500 lbs.	64.00-67.25
500-600 lbs.	58.00-66.00
600-700 lbs.	56.00-57.00
700-800 lbs.	52.00-57.00
800-900 lbs.	52.00-56.50
900-950 lbs.	54.00-54.40
HEIFERS	
Price trend	Steady to 3.00 higher
300-400 lbs.	53.00-67.00
400-500 lbs.	52.00-57.00
500-600 lbs.	51.00-56.00
600-700 lbs.	48.75-52.50
700-800 lbs.	48.00-52.00
COWS W/CALVES	310.00-405.00
BABY CALVES	30.00-68.00
SLAUGHTER HOGS	
Receipts	599
BARROWS, GILTS	
Price trend	3.75 higher
U.S. 1-3, 215-241 lbs.	56.10
SOWS	
Price trend	4.50-6.00 higher
U.S. 1-3, 315-430 lbs.	46.00-50.00
BOARS	44.50
Over 300 lbs.	

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New program helps farmers find jobs

Ride around the park

Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver enjoyed a buggy ride around the park during Saturday night festivities. Dorsey Watkins shown with his horse Remus, volunteered the buggy service for patrons of the Blue Licks gala. — Mercury photo

A new, one-year pilot program to help troubled farmers find off-farm employment was announced Friday at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

The new Career Assistance for Farmers Program will identify up to 2,500 farmers in the Bluegrass Area who are likely to be forced out of business by the worsening economic conditions in Kentucky agriculture. Once identified, the farmers will be helped to prepare job search strategies and to recognize potential marketable skills.

The program was launched at a news conference at the university's E.S. Good Barn by the Cooperative Extension Service of the College of Agriculture in conjunction with the Bluegrass Area Development District and the Department of Employment Services. Congressman Larry Hopkins, who helped in obtaining the funding for the $119,000 project, also attended the news conference.

PAUL D. WARNER, assistant director for community development for the College of Agriculture, who will administer the program along with Thomas W. Ilvento, Extension sociologist, said the program also will help marginal farmers who will find that they can remain in the business only by finding other work off the farm. Many farmers, farm workers and farm family members have little experience in securing employment off the farm.

"Many of them may have a lot of skills which could be marketable," he said. "They may have developed skills in welding for example. They may have heavy equipment operations skills, or significant experience as a mechanic."

He added, "Yet, many of them might tell a prospective employer that their lifetime work was just farming."

WARNER STRESSED that this program was not an employment placement service to find jobs for the displaced worker, but rather it is an educational program to improve interviewing and application skills so the farmers can be more competitive in the job market.

"Where we find displaced workers who don't have marketable skills, we will help them by referring them to the institution, such as a vocational school, or the agency that, can help them."

Warner said the program was made necessary by the changing conditions in agriculture which make it increasingly difficult for many to make a living on the farm. The falling price of land, increased costs of farm production, difficulty in securing credit and the reduction of price support levels are forcing many Kentuckians to reevaluate their ability to survive in farming.

Quota reductions in tobacco alone, Kentucky's main cash crop, have resulted in an estimated $30 million reduction in annual income for Central Kentucky families, he said.

"MANY FARMERS will find that, in order to maintain sufficient family income, their only option is either to increase their work off the farm or shift to off-farm work altogether," he said.

"While the program primarily is aimed toward helping to improve the farmer's ability to find full-time work off the farm, we hope also to help some to save their farms by finding work to help them over the current crisis."

On Dean's List

Five students from Nicholas County were named to the Morehead State University Dean's List for the Spring Semester. They were: Donald A. Bromagen, Cara Donovan Christie, Melissa L. Dudley, Gary C. Tolliver, and Connie S. Wills.

To be named to the list, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis and achieve at least a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Proud catch!

Ashley Fields, all of three years old, proudly displays a catfish she caught while fishing recently in Licking River. The fish weighed about two pounds. She was assisted in bringing in the catch by Steve Fryman and her mother, Ginger Lou Fields. — Mercury photo

Most crops are thirsty for rain

Crops are "thirsty" in most areas of the state as another week of hot, humid weather prevailed. Rainfall was generally light and widely scattered.

All Kentucky weather stations continue below normal on rainfall since April 1 with only three installation stations reporting above normal precipitation during the last four weeks.

Last week's open weather allowed farmers to average 2.8 days of fieldwork out of six. Common activities were wheat and hay harvest, soybean planting, cultivation and chemical weed control.

By the weekend, most tobacco fields had been transplanted. However, a few areas still were not through setting. Wayne Livesay, Adair County Agent, says quite a few acres remain to be set in his area. Some growers were irrigating last week and more will water this week; however, many producers do not have the capability to irrigate their fields.

About half of the set tobacco is under a foot tall with 12 percent over two feet tall. Condition of all tobacco is rated 14 percent poor, 60 percent fair, 25 percent good and one percent excellent. Black shank and tomato wilt virus continue to be a problem in some areas. Aphid and worm populations are increasing.

Corn condition is rated one percent very poor, one percent poor, 37 percent fair, 56 percent good and three percent excellent. The crop is entering the critical pollen shed and silking stage of development. Adequate rainfall will be critical during the next three to four weeks.

Statewide, 25 percent of the corn is silked or silking compared with 12 percent a year ago and the average of four percent. Many fields are beginning to show stress from the hot, dry conditions, but the stress is the most evident in the eastern half of the state and on conventionally tilled fields.

Wheat for grain harvest continued ahead of last year's pace. By Sunday, 72 percent of the acreage had been harvested compared with 70 percent in 1985 and the average of 34 percent. Second cuttings of alfalfa are half complete. Emerged sorghum is rated six percent poor, 44 percent fair and 50 percent good. Pastures are in need of rain.

Hot and humid weather prevailed throughout the week with Kentucky's thermometer making daily runs into the upper 90s to mid 90s.

Drought

Continued from page 1

up," Phillips said.

He said it would take several soaking rains to ease the pasture situation since the clay soil composition was tightly baked. Meanwhile, tobacco fields here and in neighboring counties were being irrigated.

Rainfall late Saturday varied from a trace to seventh-tenths of an inch, with the greatest concentration falling in the western portion of the county.

Monday night thunder showers produced almost an inch in several sections provided temporary help for pastures and gardens, but fell far short of the soaking rain so badly needed. For the year, rainfall is approximately 12 inches below normal.

All news is not bad, however, at least not at this point in the growing season. Commercially grown bell peppers, in fact, have been described as having some of the heaviest sets this early that marketing representatives have seen in some years.

Phillips and several Dunbar-Moody representatives toured five local farms engaged in raising peppers last week.

"They were real pleased with the crops they saw here," Phillips said. "Some peppers were the size of golf balls and an inch and a half long."

FARMS VISITED were those of Reno Runck III on the Old Paris Road, Gerald Hammons on Maysville Road, Bobby and Mike Webb and John Cleaver Jr., Walnut Grove Road, and Chuck Smith on Miller Station Road.

But, as Phillips pointed out, peppers consist of a lot of water and need rain badly to reach an acceptable marketing size. Some 31½ acres of peppers are being raised commercially, or three times the amount planted last year.

The Farmers Market at Blue Licks opened last Friday, minus any Nicholas County participation. Two local producers who had paid for stall space asked for a refund. Phillips said he was told the new venture would be supplied by farmers in Robertson and Mason counties.

Guest speaker

William Threlkeld of Versailles, director of the Soil Conservation Service here in 1961 when the lake project got underway, was guest speaker at the plaque dedication ceremonies 25 years later. — Mercury photo

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