



Pest Corner

August, 2007

Heat Damage

Though some plants may still look scorched and appear to be dead, in many cases they will survive. In Perennials new next spring growth will replace scorched tissues. Continue to water deeply into root area. Damaged annual vegetable plants need replacing with heat tolerant types.

Mulches

One of the best methods for control of garden weeds. Use a layer of organic mulch from 1 to 6 inches deep. Mulches help maintain soil moisture; keep soil temperatures cool; and keep vegetables cleaner. Organic mulch include wood chips, sawdust, lawn clippings and leaves. Note that there is no scientific evidence mulches of cedar sawdust or woodchips will adversely impact plant growth.

Watch plant growth closely as slow-growing plants with small pale-green or yellowish leaves may need more Nitrogen.

For each cubic yard of sawdust (300 square feet one-inch deep) 3 ½ lbs of available N should be added. May apply 17 lbs of ammonium sulfate; or 11 lbs of ammonium nitrate; or 22 lbs of ammoniated phosphate (16-20-0).

For a bushel of sawdust (15 square feet one-inch deep): May apply ¾ lb of ammonium sulfate; or ½ lb ammonium nitrate; or one lb of ammonium phosphate (16-20-20).

Weeds

By mid-to late summer, weeds can take over, and go to seed unnoticed. Some weeds may flower when days get shorter near Fall (a day-length response). Some weeds may go to seed soon after they germinate, producing seeds on very small and young plants. ***Do not let weeds go to seed.***

Herbicide Use: Trifluralin, (Preen*), is a selective pre-emergent herbicide labeled for use on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collard, cucumber, green peas, kale, melons, tomatoes, turnip greens, peppers, potatoes, snap beans and squash. When applied before weeds emerge, it provides control for 1 to 2 months after

planting. Preen* controls a variety of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds including barnyard grass, downy brome grass, crabgrass, foxtail, lambsquarters, pigweeds, puncturevine, purslane, and sandbur. It has no effect on established weeds.

Weed germination: Minimize soil disturbance (do shallow cultivation or hoeing) to avoid exposing weed seeds to sun. Do gentle pulling of large weeds. Always hoe weeds when they are just emerging and during the hottest part of the day, so they are less likely to re-root. When watering, use drip- or soaker-hose methods that put water near the plants and not over the entire garden to limit weed germination between rows.

Corn meal gluten: Has potential as a pre-emergent herbicide for home garden use. It contains 60 % corn protein that is 10 percent nitrogen. It needs dry soil to inhibit formation of seed root tissues. Does not work too well in wet coastal areas, or when soils remain wet on the surface after it is applied.

Tomato (& Potato) Late Blight

August weather with night time temperatures in the 50's and days in the 70's plus rain, fog or heavy dew encourages potato and/or tomato Late Blight fungal disease. Hot dry weather prevents it. Gardeners can protect their tomatoes and potatoes from infection by placing a temporary roof made from a plastic drop cloth over the plants to keep moisture off the foliage (allow for air circulation). Also, stake and prune plants to provide good air circulation.

Fungicide sprays: Applied before the disease begins is the only method to prevent complete destruction. Tomato approved include: *Bravo Weather Stik, and Kop- R- Spray. Potato approved include: *Bravo, Maneb, and Mancozeb. When applied now these fungicides, used according to labeled directions, will protect plants from infection. Several applications at 10-day intervals may be necessary, depending on weather conditions

Tomato Leaves Curling

Leaf-roll on tomatoes is a fairly common occurrence. The leaflets of older leaves roll upward along the edges and curl around the mid-vein. The leaves have a normal green color and are firm and leathery to the touch. It does not necessarily indicate the so called "curly top disease of tomatoes (as discussed in various garden publications). This virus disease is quite rare in Western Washington. More than likely, the curling leaves are a physiological stress to drought. The cool nights and warm sunny days, that are common this time of year, may be a contributing factor. The curling symptoms do not damage the fruit and will usually disappear with proper watering practices.

*Trade names for educational purposes only; does not imply product promotion, or endorsement by WSU.

Adapted from 2007 articles by Don Tapio, G.H. County Extension Agent. Submitted by Cecilia, Ocean Shores.

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