



# Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

May 2011

## Urban Tree Project- Start II

By James Hodges

After a rocky start, I plan to kick off the Urban Tree project again in early May with a training and work day on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00PM.

There are three goals to this project:

1. Continuing education for Master Gardeners and work experience on trees.
2. Collecting information on newly planted urban trees over time with photos, repeated measurements and evaluations. Part of the evaluation will be examination of developing problems and treatment prescriptions.
3. Develop best management prac-



Urban trees go through a great deal following planting before they adjust to their new site.

tices for new trees. Use this information in the future teaching and outdoor programs for Master Gardeners, the public and professional landscape and tree care people.

I have several steps in the process planned with training and work days at the Greenwood Library, Lander University and a

few street trees in the uptown area of Greenwood as we work through the spring and fall.

Let me know by email: [jmhodge@clermson.edu](mailto:jmhodge@clermson.edu) or phone 223-3264 x 116 if you are still interested. Let me know if you can attend the May 5<sup>th</sup> event.

## Voucher Distribution Volunteers Needed

By James Hodges

Again this year I will be looking for volunteers to help with the task of distributing vouchers for the purchase of fresh vegetable. I will be scheduling training sessions in the next several weeks during the day and evening. The Farmers Market opens on June 4<sup>th</sup> with a very busy day in voucher distribution. More will follow on dates of training and some distribution at senior centers.

## Dates to Remember:

- THURSDAY, MAY 5TH, 5:30-7:00 PM **URBAN TREE PROJECT**
- SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, **SALE MARLBORO BULBS 9-1 PM**
- THURSDAY, MAY 12TH, 6:30 PM **ANNUAL PICNIC AND PLANT SWAP -EMMA GASKIN MAGNOLIA PARK**
- SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, **CREATIVE CONTAINER CLASS, WYATT FARMS, 10-11 AM**
- SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, **FARMERS MARKET OPENS- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VOUCHER PROGRAM**
- THURSDAY, JULY 14TH, 6:30 PM – **GENERAL MEETING**
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING**
- THURSDAY, SEPT. 8TH, 6:30 PM **GENERAL MEETING WITH SPEAKER**
- THURSDAY, OCT. 13TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING**
- THURSDAY, NOV. 10TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING- BUDGET MEETING**
- THURSDAY, DEC. 8TH, 6:30 PM **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

*The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.*

# LMG ANNUAL PICNIC & PLANT SWAP



**Emma Gaskin Memorial Park**  
(aka Magnolia Park)

Magnolia St. behind the Post Office in Uptown Greenwood

**Thursday, May 12, 2011 @ 6:30 pm**

Our organization will supply the meat, buns and beverages. A few of the members of our Social Committee will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. We ask that everyone bring the sides. Please contact Catherine Swindell with the number of people in your party and what you will be bringing. Items could include picnic-style items such as potato salad, baked beans, a variety of fruit and veggie salads, chips & dips, etc.

**Come Join Us For  
Great Food, Fellowship, Door Prizes and Lots of Fun!!**

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**Reminder:** While separating your plants this spring, save a few items for the **Plant Swap!**

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For Questions or to  
**RSVP** -Catherine @ [gardencat46@gmail.com](mailto:gardencat46@gmail.com)  
Or  
223-8552  
By May 5th

# Early Blight of Tomatoes

By Vincent Plotczyk

With the gardening season underway, early blight will soon be making an appearance in many gardens. Early Blight is one of the most common and damaging diseases of tomatoes. The disease also can strike potato, pepper and eggplant. Early Blight is caused by the fungus *Alternaria solani*. The first noticeable symptom is small dark brown irregular shaped spots on the lower, older leaves. This symptom usually shows up early in the season.



Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

The spots may enlarge during periods of high humidity and have concentric rings.



Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

The tissue surrounding each spot turns yellow. Once the spots enlarge the leaf will turn brown and drop. This usually happens mid-season after many of the fruit have set. The defoliation of

leaves can cause the fruit to become exposed to the sun and cause sunscald.

On stems, lesions start out as small, dark and slightly sunken. Later the spots enlarge to form elongated lesions with concentric markings similar to those of the leaves.



Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

Stem infections can occur at any age. Lesions that form at the base of transplants or emerging seedlings can cause partial girdling or collar rot. Plants that survive the early stem cankers usually remain small and produce few fruit.

During the flowering stage early blight can cause blossom drop, spotting of fruit stems and loss of young fruit.

Tomatoes can be infected in the green or ripe stage through growth cracks, and other wounds. Infected fruits often drop before they reach maturity.

The early blight fungus may also invade ripe fruit near the point of attachment to the stem. This fruit may also show the concentric markings as those on the leaves.



Yuan-Min Shen, Taichung District Agricultural Research and Extension Station, Bugwood.org

Older fruit may be affected. Dark, sunken, leathery lesions appear on the stem end of the fruit. On older fruit the lesions can reach considerable size. Heavily infected fruit usually drop.

The fungal spores can be spread by wind, rain, insects, garden tools and windblown soil. The fungus can also be seed borne.

The fungus can survive year to year in the soil on or in diseased tomato debris, volunteer tomato and potato plants or on solanaceous weeds.

### Management

- \* Use a 3 to 4 year crop rotation with crops other than eggplant, potato, and pepper.
- \* Stake or cage plants to keep foliage from coming in contact with the soil.
- \* Mulching helps to prevent splashing of spores from soil up to lower leaves.
- \* Destroy weeds such as Black nightshade or Jerusalem cherry, which can serve as host to the fungus.
- \* Space plants for good air circulation.
- \* Use furrow or drip irrigation instead of overhead irrigation.

\* If overhead irrigation is used, irrigate early in the morning to allow time for the plants to dry before evening.

\* Maintain vigorous plant growth. Inadequate fertility, organic matter, minor element deficiency, heavy fruit load, nitrogen and phosphorus deficiency, and lack of soil moisture predispose tomatoes to infection.

\* Try a tomato cultivar that has a resistance to early blight. Tomato cultivars vary in their resistance to early blight. The cultivars, Mountain Fresh, Mountain Supreme, and Plum Dandy, have resistance to early blight.

\* Remove diseased plants.

\* Application of fungicides may be needed for early blight control. A spray program using a recommended fungicide beginning at fruit set and continuing on a 7 to 14 day schedule should be maintained when early blight problems are anticipated. Some recommended fungicides for the home gardener are chlorothalonil, mancozeb or fixed copper. Consult the HGIC bulletin 2217 Tomato Diseases for details.

**When using a fungicide remember to read and follow all label directions. The label is the law!**

### Organic Control Measures:

- \* Use crop rotation. Rotation to non-solanaceous crops for 3 to 4 years.
- \* Stake or cage plants to keep foliage from coming in contact with the soil.
- \* Space plants for good air circulation
- \* Mulching helps to prevent splashing of spores from soil up to lower leaves.
- \* Weed management: Shallow tilling, organic mulches or plastic sheeting. PVC plastics cannot

be used as mulches or row covers. All plastic mulch must be removed before it degrades.

\* Use furrow or drip irrigation instead of overhead irrigation

\* Fungicide options are limited in organic production; copper- and sulfur-based products are the only labeled fungicides allowed in certification programs. Coppers are labeled for anthracnose, bacterial speck, bacterial spot, early and late blight, gray leaf mold, and septoria leaf spot. Sulfur is labeled for control of powdery mildew. Sulfur by itself is a minor fungicide in tomato production. Sulfur can easily burn the plant as air temperatures rise. It also has mild insecticidal and miticidal properties which may reduce the predator/parasite complex keeping pest insects in check.

Application of copper is a routine disease control practice in organic tomato production in the eastern United States. Copper functions both as a fungicide and bactericide. Most formulations are allowable in organic certification. These include bordeaux, basic sulfates, hydroxides, oxychlorides, and oxides.

The use of copper fungicides in organic production is somewhat controversial. It is directly toxic at applied rates to some beneficial organisms, particularly earthworms and some soil microbes such as blue-green algae—an important nitrogen-fixing in many soils. Excessive use can also result in the buildup to phytotoxic (crop damaging) levels of copper in the soil. Thus, organic growers often monitor soil copper levels through regular soil testing.

#### **Sources:**

Clemson Cooperative Extension  
HGIC 2217 Tomato Diseases

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center  
Fact Sheet – Early Blight

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Early Blight of Tomatoes  
Mary Ann Hansen  
Extension Plant Pathologist  
Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and  
Weed Science

Virginia Tech

Mississippi State University Extension Service  
Plant Pathology Infobytes  
May 4, 1998  
Tomato Early Blight – Steps for Control

Michigan State University  
Early Blight of Tomato  
Jackie Smith  
MSU Diagnostic Services

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Suffolk County  
Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
Early Blight and Septoria Leaf Spot of Tomato

Ohio State University Extension  
Department of Plant Pathology  
Early Blight of Potato and Tomato  
Randall C. Rowe  
Sally A. Miller  
Richard M. Riedel

#### **Organic Source:**

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service  
(1) Organic Tomato Production  
Steve Diver, George Kuepper, and Holly Born  
NCAT Agriculture Specialist  
Published 1999

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By Janet Ledebuhr

Much of the discussion on plant choices lately has been a focus on native plants. I like native plants, especially when I find them in my yard, as volunteers.

We live in a new development and there is a large section of wooded area surrounding my property. Additionally a portion of my property is still wooded. While working on cleaning out some honeysuckle vines (the Japanese variety, which is invasive), the thorny Smilax, the ever rampant Muscadine vines, I found a few plants that made me happy.

The first was a Crane-fly Orchid. I knew of this orchid from my Master Gardener work in Virginia. The Crane-fly Orchid, *Tipularia discolor*, is a plant

late. I wasn't sure what it was, but I knew it wasn't a weed. Friends who are better making native plant IDs helped me. I can't wait for this very tiny little plant to bloom. The Native American name is Pipsissewa, which means 'it breaks into small pieces'. The leathery leaves were used in a medicine to break up kidney stones. It also is used in medicines for diseases of the eye and to heal blisters. What a remarkable little plant....surely one to leave in the woods!



with single oval shaped leaves that are shiny green on the top and purple on the underside. The leaves appear in the winter and disappear late spring. Sometime during the summer a single stalk emerges with small flowers along the stalk. It is pollinated by moths.



The second plant was new to me when I found it. It is a Striped Wintergreen or Striped Pipsissewa, *Chimaphila macu-*



This spring I have found some Blue-eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, a plant I had been known to purchase.

Blooming all through the woods is Crossvine, *Bignonia capreolata*, a favorite of the hummingbirds as they venture northward.

Take the time to discover what might be in your backyard; you never know what you might find!





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Shutterfly - http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com

Clemson Cooperative Extension Office– Greenwood– 864-223-3264



LAKELAND MASTER GARDENERS

Newsletter Editor-Janet Ledebuhr articles due by the 15th of the month— [queenofseaford@yahoo.com](mailto:queenofseaford@yahoo.com)

LMG General Meetings will be held at: The Greenwood Metro District Meeting Room 110 Metro Dr., Greenwood, SC 29646

**Directions**  
From Self Regional Hospital: Take West Alexander to Premier Dr. – stay on Premier Dr. by turning right – turn left on Metro Dr. From 225 Ext: Going South on 225 Ext., turn left on W. Alexander, turn right on Joe Bernat Dr., turn left on Premier Dr., turn right on Metro Dr.

Board Meetings are held in February, April, June, August, and October on the second Thursday of the month @ 6:00 pm @ The Clemson Extension Office @ The Brewer Center

**Miles and Hours** - please submit to Linda Halsey [halseyfarm@embarqmail.com](mailto:halseyfarm@embarqmail.com), 864-374-7253, or P.O. Box 82, Hodges, SC 29653

**Native plant reminder-**  
Have you added any native plants in your garden this year? Let us know what you planted and where you bought it!  
Just email Janet – [queenofseaford@yahoo.com](mailto:queenofseaford@yahoo.com) or Ann Barklow - [annbarklow@embarqmail.com](mailto:annbarklow@embarqmail.com)

Name	Plants	Location
Janet Ledebuhr	deciduous azaleas, mountain laurel, Silene virginica, Buttonbush	<u>pur-chased</u> SCNP plant sale



Lonicera sempervirens– Coral honeysuckle

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Have a committee where you could use an extra hand? Send it to the newsletter and it will be listed.

1. **Board positions**– Public Relations
2. Urban Tree project, email James

3. Farmers Market voucher program, see the article.
4. Programs and Speakers chairman
5. Check the website for other ongoing projects

☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2011.html>

**THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2011**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| President- Jimmy McInville 223-3096         | Programs & Speakers– <u>OPEN</u>    |
| Secretary- Sandy Orr 543-4888               | Finance and Fund Raising– April     |
| Vice President- Patti Larson 223-9891       | Prater 543-3644                     |
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| Phone- Nicole Ellis 229-2343                | Web Site- Chuck Bender 998-3123     |
| Education- Helen Spiller 223-2806           | Office- Vince Plotczyk 942-0871     |

**Membership dues**....it is never too late to pay your dues....please send your dues and form to: Patti Larson, 325 Nautical Way, Greenwood, SC 29649  
Forms available online - print page #6  
<http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/archives/Feb2011.pdf>

**This Association shall be operated for the growth and development of its members and for the following purposes:**

1. Sharing horticultural information and guidance with South Carolina residents based on research specific to the local climate, soils, and plants;
2. Volunteering time to assist the Extension Service in meeting the demand for reliable gardening information;
3. Providing volunteer service to improve our communities through a wide variety of horticultural projects;
4. Promoting the training of Master Gardeners and keeping Master Gardeners active in service;
5. Encouraging interest in gardening by all citizens;
6. Encouraging the utilization of all resources for better gardening, including the Department of Agriculture and Clemson University Extension Service;
7. Encouraging local environmental beautification and preservation; and
8. Helping those less fortunate prosper from the benefits of horticulture.