

Ag Estate Planning Workshop, March 5

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County is hosting an Ag Estate and Succession Planning Workshop on Tuesday, March 5, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Check-in starts at 9:15 a.m. The event is designed to help anyone thinking about how they should proceed with plans to retire, exit or transfer a farm or ranch business. More than one generation of family

members are encouraged to attend. Registrations required by Feb. 28 by calling 402-441-7180. The cost to attend is \$25 per person and \$10 for each additional family member sharing materials. Fee includes refreshments, lunch and handouts. Pay at the door with cash or check. Debit/credit card payment available for an additional fee.

- Topics:
- Importance of planning
 - Family communications

- Basic legal considerations and issues with estate planning
- Financing and management transfer for the next generation
- Basic transfer tools (wills, trusts, indirect ownership)
- How insurance products can be used in estate planning

For more information about the workshop, call Allan Vyhnaelek at 402-472-1771.

Dicamba training, March 12

The EPA has extended the registrations for three RUP dicamba products (XtendiMax®, Engenia®, FeXapan™) until Dec. 20, 2020. You must hold a valid applicator's license AND receive annual, state-authorized, dicamba- or auxin-specific training to use these products.

There are many options to receive this Dicamba label-required training. University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers in-person trainings and has developed an online dicamba training program. The schedule and online training can be found at <http://pested.unl.edu>.

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County will host an in-person training on Tuesday, March 12 at 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. There is no cost to attend and no pre-registration needed. Please arrive on time and bring your certified applicator license.

For questions on the training, contact Tyler Williams at 402-441-7180. For dicamba-specific questions, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

Farmland Rent Meeting, March 14

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County is hosting a Landlord-Tenant Farmland Rent Meeting on Thursday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Check-in starts at 9:15 a.m. The workshop will cover current trends in cash rental rates, lease provisions and crop and grazing land considerations.

Register by March 11 by calling 402-441-7180 to ensure meal count. This program is offered free and open to the public with funding provided by the North Central Extension Risk

Management Education Center and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under award number 2015-49200-24226. Lunch is free thanks to our sponsor United Farm and Ranch Management (UFARM).

- Learn about:
- Equitable rental rates
 - Lease communication
 - Proper lease terms
 - Current land values
 - Soil types and productivity
 - Soil tests
 - Pasture lease provisions
 - Stocking rates for pasture

“Landlords and tenants often struggle with land management questions,” said Allan Vyhnaelek, Extension Educator and workshop presenter. “Both are concerned with fair treatment, but it can be difficult to keep up with the current trends. Our workshop will provide participants with up-to-date information so they can be confident about their lease arrangements.”

For more information about the workshop, call Allan Vyhnaelek at 402-472-1771.

Early spring pest control for evergreen trees



Zimmerman pine moth pitch mass



New shoots killed by Diplodia infection.



Needles infected by Dothistroma fungus

Sarah Browning

Extension Educator, Lancaster Co.

Correct timing on your pest control measures is key to good control, but that's difficult when insect or disease symptoms don't show up until much later in the growing season. Three common pest problems on evergreen trees include Zimmerman pine moth, diplodia tip blight and dothistroma needle blight. They are listed below in order of timing for control.

Now is a good time to scout for problems in your trees and prepare for control, if needed.

Zimmerman pine moth

Zimmerman pine moths are serious pests of pines in Nebraska. Their larvae, which are caterpillars, damage trees by tunneling just beneath the bark of the trunk and branches — most commonly on the trunk just below a branch. The tunnels they make can girdle the trunk or branches or physically weaken them so they are easily broken by wind or snow. Heavily infested trees are often deformed and are sometimes killed.

The first sign of infestation by pine moths is the appearance of soft, pinkish-pitch masses on the trunk or branches. These pitch masses, which form where larvae are feeding beneath the bark, may be found anywhere from the top to the bottom of the tree and commonly look like masses of bubble gum. After the larvae finish feeding, the pitch masses dry and become light yellow to cream

colored, hard and brittle. The pitch masses may remain on the tree for many years and may not be noticed unless the tree is examined closely.

Ponderosa, Austrian and Scotch pines are highly susceptible to pine moths. Jack and white pines can be infested, but are usually not seriously damaged. Pines from 5–15 feet tall are the most heavily infested and damaged. Smaller trees are less frequently attacked. Larger trees are often heavily infested, but they are not likely to be severely damaged.

Young larvae, which hatched out last fall and spent the winter under loose bark scales or in old tree wounds, are susceptible to insecticidal control in spring. Spray bark on the tree trunk and base of main branches with a drenching spray of permethrin or bifenthrin in the second week of April and again the second week of August.

Diplodia tip blight

This fungal disease of Austrian and Ponderosa pine kills current-year shoots and, in years with heavy disease pressure, can kill whole branches. It's most common and damaging in mature trees, but young trees can be affected, too.

The most conspicuous symptom of Diplodia tip blight is stunted new shoots with short, brown needles still partially encased in their sheath. Infected shoots are quickly killed and may be located anywhere in the tree's canopy, although damage is generally first evident and most severe in the lower branches. After two or three successive years of infection, a heavily infected tree's canopy may be

extensively damaged. Repeated infections reduce growth and deform trees. Branches that have been infested several years in a row often die back completely.

Small, black, pimple-like structures develop at the base of infected needles and on the backside of pinecone scales. These structures produce additional fungal spores that can re-infect the tree.

Spray branch tips thoroughly when new growth starts, just before needles emerge from sheaths — usually around the third week of April — and 7–14 days later according to the label with thiophanate-methyl (such as Cleary's 3336 or Fungo), propiconazole (Banner MAXX), copper fungicides or Bordeaux mixture. Also improve tree health by mulching with wood or bark chips and watering about 1 inch per week. Avoid overwatering.

Dothistroma needle blight

One of the most common fungal diseases of pines in Nebraska is Dothistroma needle blight. This disease is responsible for much of the premature needle drop that occurs in windbreaks and ornamental pine plantings. Twenty pine species are affected by this disease, but in the central and eastern U.S., the fungus is found most commonly and causes the greatest amount of damage on Austrian and Ponderosa pine.

Initial infection of the tree by fungal spores occurs during rainy periods from May to October. Germinating spores enter the needles through natural openings and the infection process begins. Symptoms appear about three to four months after

the first infection, usually becoming visible in late fall.

Symptoms are seen as yellow or tan spots on needles of the current year's or older growth. These spots darken and become brown or reddish-brown then spread to form a band around the needle. These bands are often bordered by a yellow, chlorotic ring on each side. The fungus grows within these tissues, killing that portion of the needle beyond the lesion.

Initially, the tip of the needle dies while the base remains green, but eventually as the disease progresses, the base of the needle also dies, and the entire needle drops off the tree. Typically, clusters of needles within a shoot are infected. Lower branches of trees are most severely infected, although the entire tree can be affected. Usually the greatest amount of needle drop is seen in the late spring or early summer following infection.

Spray trees with copper fungicide or Bordeaux mixture as needles are emerging (mid May) and after new growth has occurred (mid to late June). Increasing air-flow around the healthiest trees by removing older, declining trees will also reduce disease pressure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- *Insect Pests of Evergreen Trees, Nebraska Forest Service, <http://nfs.unl.edu/documents/foresthealth/insectevergreen.pdf>*
- *Diseases of Evergreen Trees, Nebraska Forest Service, <http://nfs.unl.edu/documents/foresthealth/diseasesevergreen.pdf>*