

# Taylor County Horticulture Newsletter

## July 2025

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## Phomopsis Twig Blight & Stem Canker of Blueberry

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier,  
Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

### Phomopsis Disease Facts

- Symptoms first appear in spring as blighted twigs with flower bud loss. Necrotic, reddish-brown lesions may develop around blighted areas and spread downward. Wilting and flagging is observed as stems die. Girdling cankers can also appear on lower stems. Leaf spots can also occur on foliage, and fruit may ripen prematurely or rot.
- Disease is favored by warm, moist periods. Plants damaged by freezing temperatures or stressed by poor planting sites are more susceptible to disease.
- Caused by the fungus *Phomopsis vaccinii*.
- The pathogen survives winter in dead or infected twigs.




Photo: Annemiek Schilder,  
Michigan State University

### Management Options

- Select resistant cultivars such as 'Bluetta' and 'Elliott'.
- Prune out infected twigs by cutting a minimum of 6 inches below infected tissue. Discard cuttings; never leave them in the field.
- Avoid planting sites prone to late frosts.
- Maintain plant health with proper fertilization, irrigation, and weed management.
- Avoid wounding stems.
- Fungicides do not cure Phomopsis tip blight.
- Fungicides may be applied preventatively (before infection) beginning at bud break and continuing through full bloom for plantings with high infection risk. Homeowners may use fungicides that contain the active ingredients captan or propiconazole. Contact Kara Back-Campbell, Taylor County Extension Agent for Horticulture for more information on fungicide use.



# Taylor County July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 4-H Horticulture Judging 3:30 PM	3	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM
6	7 4-H Horticulture Judging 3:30 PM	8	9	10	11 4-H Leaf Collection Binder Building 10:30 AM	12 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM Early Learning Bus & Kid's Bucks 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
13	14 Busy Bloomer Garden Club Topic: Pansies 1:00 PM ..... 4-H Horticulture Judging 3:30 PM	15	16	17 Green River Beekeepers 7:00 PM	18 4-H Entomology Club County Fair Projects 3:30 PM	19 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM
20	21	22	23 4-H Horticulture Judging 3:30 PM	24	25	26 Farmers' Market OPEN 8:00 - 2:00 PM Christmas in July 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
27	28 Bird Club DIY Walking Sticks 1:00 PM ..... 4-H Horticulture Judging 3:30 PM	29	30 UK Sports Turf Field Day	31		

**\*All 4-H Events require registration on Eventbrite.\***

To RSVP for the classes, call the Extension office at 270-465-4511.

# Early Blight & Septoria Leaf Spot of Tomato

By: Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

## Early Blight Facts

- Symptoms first appear on older leaves as small, brown lesions, which over time expand and develop a concentric ring (bulls-eye) pattern. Disease spreads upward and lesions develop on newer growth as disease progresses. Lesions may merge together resulting in a rapid dieback of plant tissue. Fruit may also become infected. Affected fruit develop dark, brown to black lesions with concentric ring patterns near the stem attachment point.
- Disease overwinters in plant debris left over from the previous season.
- Early blight spreads when spores are carried by water, such as irrigation and rain splash.
- Warm, wet conditions and periods of high humidity favor disease development.
- Fruit infected in the field can develop symptoms in storage and shorten shelf-life.
- Early blight is caused by the fungal pathogen *Alternaria linariae*, which can infect other solanaceous hosts and some cucurbits.



Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK

## Septoria Leaf Spot Facts

- Symptoms first appear as small circular lesions with tan-brown centers on older leaves and lower portions of stems. Over time disease progresses up the plant to new growth. As disease spreads, leaves may begin to die back rapidly. However, individually, lesions can still be observed. During periods of high humidity, small, black reproductive structures (pycnidia) may be seen in centers of spots. Septoria leaf spot does not affect fruit.
- Disease overwinters in plant debris left from the previous season.
- Septoria leaf spot is spread by water, such as irrigation and rain.
- Warm, wet conditions and periods of high humidity favor disease development.
- Septoria leaf spot is caused by the fungal pathogen *Septoria lycopersici*, which can also infect a wide range of solanaceous hosts.

## Management

- Purchase certified disease-free seeds or transplants.
- Utilize cultivars with resistance or tolerance to diseases.
- Manage weeds in and near plantings, especially nightshades and other solanaceous weeds.
- Rotate crops.
- Increase plant spacing.
- Apply mulch layer.
- Remove and destroy infected plants or plant parts.
- Avoid overhead watering.
- Clean and sanitize tools, pots, and equipment.
- Remove and destroy plant debris at the end of the season.



Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK

# Upcoming Events

## 4-H Horticulture Judging

4-H Horticulture Judging is free and for youth 9-18 years (as of January 1, 2025). Participants will learn how to identify and judge vegetables, woody ornamentals, fruit, and nuts. Participants must complete a total of 6 hours to compete at the state competition held at the Kentucky State Fair in August.

### July Meetings:

July 2 at 3:30 p.m.  
July 7 at 3:30 p.m.  
July 14 at 3:30 p.m.  
July 23 at 3:30 p.m.  
July 28 at 3:30 p.m.



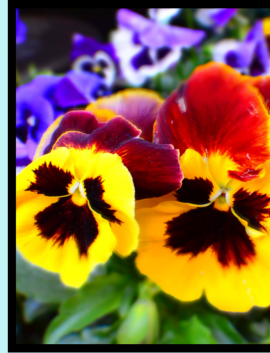
## Bird Club

This month the Bird Club will be creating a DIY walking stick to use while out and about enjoy the beautiful birds. We will be meeting at the Taylor County Extension Office.

**Monday, July 28**  
**1:00 p.m.**



## Busy Bloomer Garden Club



This month the Busy Bloomer Garden Club will be learning all about pansies!

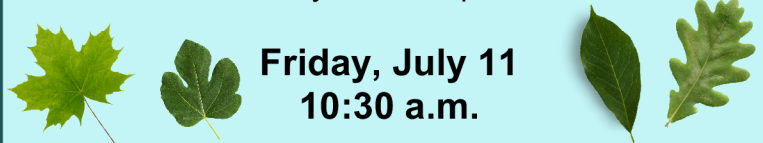
**Monday, July 14**

**1:00 p.m.**

We will be meeting at the Taylor County Extension Office.

## 4-H Leaf Collection

The 4-H Leaf Collection offers youth ages 9-18 (as of January 1, 2025) the opportunity to collect and learn about different leaves. Participants will complete a Leaf Collection Binder that can be entered in the County Fair competition.



**Friday, July 11**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Registration is required on Eventbrite.

## Taylor County Farmers' Market

The Taylor County Farmers' Market is open Saturday's from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM at 73 Animal Shelter Road (off Highway 210, past Wal-Mart).

### Special Events:



Early Learning Bus & Kids' Bucks  
Saturday, July 12  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Christmas in July  
Saturday, July 26  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## 4-H Entomology Club

The Entomology Club will be completing the projects for the County Fair Entomology project.



**Friday, July 18**  
**10:30 a.m.**



Registration is required on Eventbrite.

## Green River Beekeepers

The Green River Beekeepers meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

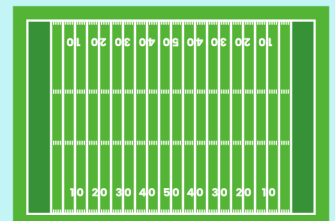
### July Meeting:

Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Taylor County Extension Office  
1143 South Columbia Avenue  
Campbellsville, KY



## UK Sports Turf Field Day

**Wednesday, July 30**



Call the Taylor County Extension Office at (270) 465-4511 to find out more information about attending the UK Sports Turf Field Day.

# Bacterial Wilt of Cucurbits

By: Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

## Bacterial Wilt Facts

- Symptoms often first appear as dull green, wilted leaves or groups of leaves. Over time, wilting becomes prominent throughout the plant; collapsed foliage and vines turn brown, shrivel, and die.
- Field diagnosis can be conducted using a simple “bacterial ooze test.” For cucumber and muskmelon, select a wilted vine (not dead), and using a sharp knife, make a cut near the crown. Touch the cut ends together for 3 to 5 seconds and then slowly pull them apart, looking for fine thread-like strands of bacterial ooze connecting the two parts. To diagnose bacterial wilt in all cucurbits, including squash and pumpkin, place cut pieces of affected vines into a clear glass container filled with water. When the bacterium is present, a cloudy string or mass of bacterial ooze will flow into the water from cut stem pieces.
- Striped and spotted cucumber beetles transmit the bacterial pathogen during feeding. The pathogen overwinters in the gut of these vectors.
- Spring temperatures above 55°F promote growth of cucurbit seedlings, as well as striped and spotted cucumber beetle feeding on all plant parts.
- Bacterial wilt is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Erwinia tracheiphila*.

## Management

- Once plants become infected with bacterial wilt, no disease management practices are effective. Preventative strategies should be used to limit introductions and spread of disease.
- Select resistant or tolerant cultivars.
- Rotate crops away from cucurbits for a minimum of 2 years.
- Manage weeds.
- An insecticide management program should be implemented as soon as seedlings emerge or after transplanting. An effective program should include one or more of the following:
  - Contact or systemic insecticides.
  - Trap cropping.
  - Physical barriers (netting) and mulches.
- Remove and destroy infected plants.



Photo: William Nesmith, UK



Photo: Edward Sikora, Auburn University, Bugwood.org



Photo: Ric Besson, UK



## Blackberry Peach Crumble

**2 cups** fresh blackberries  
**2 cups** peeled and sliced fresh peaches  
or 1 (16 ounce) bag frozen peach slices, (optional)  
thawed  
**1 teaspoon** grated lemon peel  
**2 tablespoons** cornstarch  
**1/3 cup**, plus **1/2 cup** packed brown sugar

**1/2 cup** all-purpose flour  
**1/2 cup** chopped blanched almonds,  
**1/4 teaspoon** salt  
**6 tablespoons** butter, cut into pieces

**Combine** blackberries, peaches, lemon peel, cornstarch and **1/3 cup** brown sugar in a large bowl.

**Pour** ingredients into a lightly greased 8 inch baking dish.

**Mix** together flour, almonds, salt, and remaining **1/2 cup** brown sugar. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal.

**Sprinkle** flour mixture over fruit.

**Bake** in a pre-heated 400° F oven for 30 minutes.

**Cool** 10 minutes prior to serving.

**Yield:** 8, **1/2 cup** servings

**Nutritional Analysis** 270 calories,  
14 g fat, 25mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium,  
35 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g fiber.  
Without almonds: 220 calories, 9 g fat,  
25 mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium, 35 g  
carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g fiber.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

