

**All Gardens
Great & Small**
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



October's Tried And True Lore

*The oak leafs out before the ash;
We'll have a spring of wet and splash.*

*The ash leafs out before the oak;
We'll know a spring of fire and smoke.*

October's seasonal folklore never does anything to change the weather.

October's warm start means that in the real world of insect pests, aphids and spider mites remain active throughout the month. They produce honeydew that attracts bald-faced hornets, yellow jackets and ants. Crickets, cluster flies, boxelder bugs, hackberry psyllids and spiders are seeking food, warmth and shelter in homes.

Control these pests with good garden sanitation. Remove plant debris, old leaves, and overgrown shrubs and clear weeds especially. Other controls include the use of water sprays, horticultural soaps or oils outdoors around the foundation of your home.

Leaf scorch is a very common sight in the landscape. The brown leaf edges are reminders of the dry summer months. The old needles (those closest to the trunk) on many needle evergreens (pines, spruce, arborvitae, etc.) are turning yellow and dropping. Needle drop is excessive this fall due to the drought. The needle drop from white pines is the most noticeable.

Premature defoliation and fall coloring is evident in other trees besides sycamore, dogwoods and tulip poplar. Although aggravated by the drought, some of these trees have other stress-related problems. Sugar maples are losing leaves before they turn a deep red and have some premature leaf loss on several branches in the crown of the tree. When you look closely at the tree trunk, you can see flat sides (no root flares) as well as girdling roots. If trees of the same species turn color prematurely or lose leaves before others in the

same area, they are good candidates for close inspection. Is the soil compacted; are there wounds on the trunk; is sawdust evident; is there any evidence of mushrooms growing on the roots, trunk, or branches that would indicate root rot or other fungal problem? These trees need attention to prevent the problem from leading to plant loss in future years. Consult with a certified arborist or contact your Cooperative Extension Office.

Shrubs in the landscape that have been drought-stressed may be showing branch die-back from opportunistic fungi that have infected drought-weakened plants. Prune out the dead branches and make sure they go into the winter with a good supply of water in the soil.

Lastly, the wooly bears, wooly worms or blackened bears are now crossing our rural byways. But, in my frequent bike rides across Lancaster County, I see many fewer than in 1994. Can someone explain why they are always seen going perpendicular (across) the road?

Actually, these common October insects are actually the hairy caterpillar stage of the Isabella tiger moth. This insect overwinters just the way you see them in the Fall. It pupates in the Spring and flies across fields. And what color are the wooly bears you are seeing this year? Are they all orange, all black or mixed with a wider center band which is orange.

Since I see mostly orange caterpillars, it must have been a good summer with food a plenty. Or, maybe it's just the genetic variation in the Isabella moth or another species like the Great Leopard moth.

Questions relating to this article can be sent to: Tom Becker, Extension Agent, Horticulture, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York PA 17402-9041.



At a cow coloring contest sponsored by Indiana County Dairy Promotion Committee, Don Hebenthal, back right, and Willie Sole, back left, representing Quality Farm and Fleet of Blairsville, hand out prizes. From left, front row, 5 years and under, are Jordan Antsdel, Zachery Clawson, and Kasla Mano; six to eight year olds, Leslie Rolt, Kelly Fike, and Nicole Houser. Back row, Sole, nine- to 12-year-olds Michael Zolocsik, Jessica Reeger, Indiana County Dairy Princess Amy Trimble, Kristen Stitt, and Hebenthal.

Trail Ride Benefits Muscular Dystrophy

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—The David C. Adamire Memorial Trail Ride for Muscular Dystrophy is planned as a fundraiser to fight the disease.

David Christopher Adamire was born Nov. 5, 1977, and was diagnosed with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy when he was 5 years old. He lived until Feb. 23, 1994. In between he led a very active life.

Adamire was a Cub Scout, 4-H member, Special Olympian, state Jaycees, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Goodwill Ambassador, the Pennsylvania MDA Poster Child, a local MDA Goodwill Ambassador, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon National MDA Poster Child, a life-time member of the Silver Springs Fire Co. and an honorary U.S. marshal.

While placed in these honorary positions, he met many celebrities and well-known people including Elizabeth Taylor, Malcolm Forbes, Richard Dean Anderson, World Wrestling Federation wrestlers "Mad Max" and "Gentleman Jim," along with state senators and representatives, television and radio personalities, former

Gov. Robert and Ellen Casey and Harrisburg's Mayor Stephen Reed.

The ride will be held Sunday, Oct. 29 (rain date Nov. 5) at the Swab Wagon Co. picnic grounds and cabin and the adjoining Margerum farm.

Directions: From the south—Take 322 West to 147 to 225 North to Mountain House Road to Small Valley Road (turn left). First farm on the left. From Perry County—Take 322 East to 147 (Halifax exit) and follow the

above directions. From Northumberland County—Take 147 South to Millersburg, turn left at square onto 209 to red light in Elizabethville, turn right onto 225 South to Mountain House Road (on the left) then follow above directions, or take 225 South to Elizabethville. From Schuylkill County—Take 209 West to Elizabethville and turn left at the light onto 225 South.

For more information, call Beverly Adamire at (717) 896-3977 or the day of the ride at (717) 362-3182 or 576-2850 (mobile phone).

Pumpkinland Holds Fest

SINKING SPRINGS (Berks Co.)—The 16th annual Pumpkinland Fall Festival at Green Valley Nursery is open through October 31. More than 30,000 people of all ages are expected to attend this magical place.

What makes our Pumpkinland unique is that it is not haunted or scary, but it is geared for the enjoyment of younger children and families. The emphasis is on family fun and participation especially in activities like Scarecrow

Stuffing and Happy Hayrides. Admission to Pumpkinland is free with a minimal charge for some activities. Pumpkinland is open weekdays from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., making it a great after school or evening activity. Weekend hours are Sat. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Pumpkinland is located on Rt. 422 W just outside of Sinking Spring. For more information, call (610) 678-6711.



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