

YADKIN COUNTY CROPS NEWSLETTER

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Controlling Disease in Tobacco

It is the time of year again when tobacco farmers start seeding their greenhouses. During this time a well developed functional root system is critical to the success of your tobacco crop. This means getting seedlings off to a good start, and preventing pythium root rot from establishing in your system.

Pythium is one of the most common and costly diseases tobacco growers face. The disease is widespread and can cause severe losses and transplant delays if it escapes control. Facility sanitation plays a big role in reducing the impact of this disease, as does a good fungicide control program.

Some farmers see pythium on a regular basis; other farmers only see it every now and then. Regardless of frequency it is important to know for sure which pathogen you are dealing with. You must get a reliable diagnosis of pythium before trying to treat the problem.

Usually the first signs of pythium root rot are usually spots in trays or groups of plants that look stunted, yellowing or even dying. If you check trays by looking at the roots that extend from the bottom of them into the float water, these water roots are affected by the disease often showing a light to dark brown necrosis. Infected roots will eventually fall away and some regrowth may occur, however new growth will likely be infected as well. As the disease progresses, yellowing and stunting of transplants become more and more common and severe.

Once you've established the pathogen's identity it's time to manage it and prevent the spread of the disease to other seedlings. There are many fungicides on the market that have excellent control of pythium. Be sure to follow good mixing procedure to ensure consistent application for best performance and to prevent potential for root injury from spotty over applications.

F.W. Rickard Seeds would like to introduce a new early maturing flue-cured tobacco variety. PVH 2310 is a tobacco variety that exhibits resistance/high tolerance to Tobacco Mosaic Virus, Potato Virus Y, Southern Root Knot Nematode and Black Shank race 0. The variety has low tolerance to Black Shank race 1 as well.

Tobacco Information Books

The 2014 Tobacco Information books are now available to tobacco growers. These books are now available at the Yadkin County Center at no charge. These are great books to have as a reference for tobacco production.

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25th Joint Annual Conference

This year the 25th annual Joint Conference was a great success. This is a time when growers can get together and focus on learning new information as well as building partnerships. It is also a great way to see what's happening in the field of agriculture. It is also a good way to get a glimpse of new technology as there is a trade show with many vendors set up to interact with folks and answer questions about technology.

This year we had growers from Yadkin County recognized at this event. Runner up for the 2013 State Corn Contest in the Northern Piedmont Region was J and D Doub Farms with 268 bushels per acre.



Yadkin County Farmland Preservation Plan

Yadkin County Farmland Preservation Plan Public Meeting
 Thursday, March 13, 6:30-8:00pm
 Board of Commissioners Meeting Room
 Yadkin County Human Services Building
 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville

Yadkin County Cooperative Extension and Soil and Water Conservation are working with Piedmont Land Conservancy to develop a Farmland Preservation Plan for Yadkin County. The goal of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is for each NC county to have a plan dedicated to farmland preservation. The NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund awarded a grant for the creation and adoption of this plan.

The public is invited to give input and contribute to the development of this plan. We will appreciate having your input and support for this planning process. Contact Colleen Church with Yadkin County Cooperative Extension for questions at (336) 679-2061.



Calendar of Events

- March 14 Price Power Equipment– Open House- offering Commercial Pesticide Credits G,L,N,O,D,X
 (2 hrs.credit) 1:00-3:00 PM (2116 N. Bridge St. Elkin, NC)

- March 19 GAP/Tobacco Production Meeting-10:00 AM-lunch
 Location-Surry Community College-Dobson (Viticulture Building)
 (630 S. Main St., Dobson, NC)

