



WHITE COUNTY HORTICULTURE

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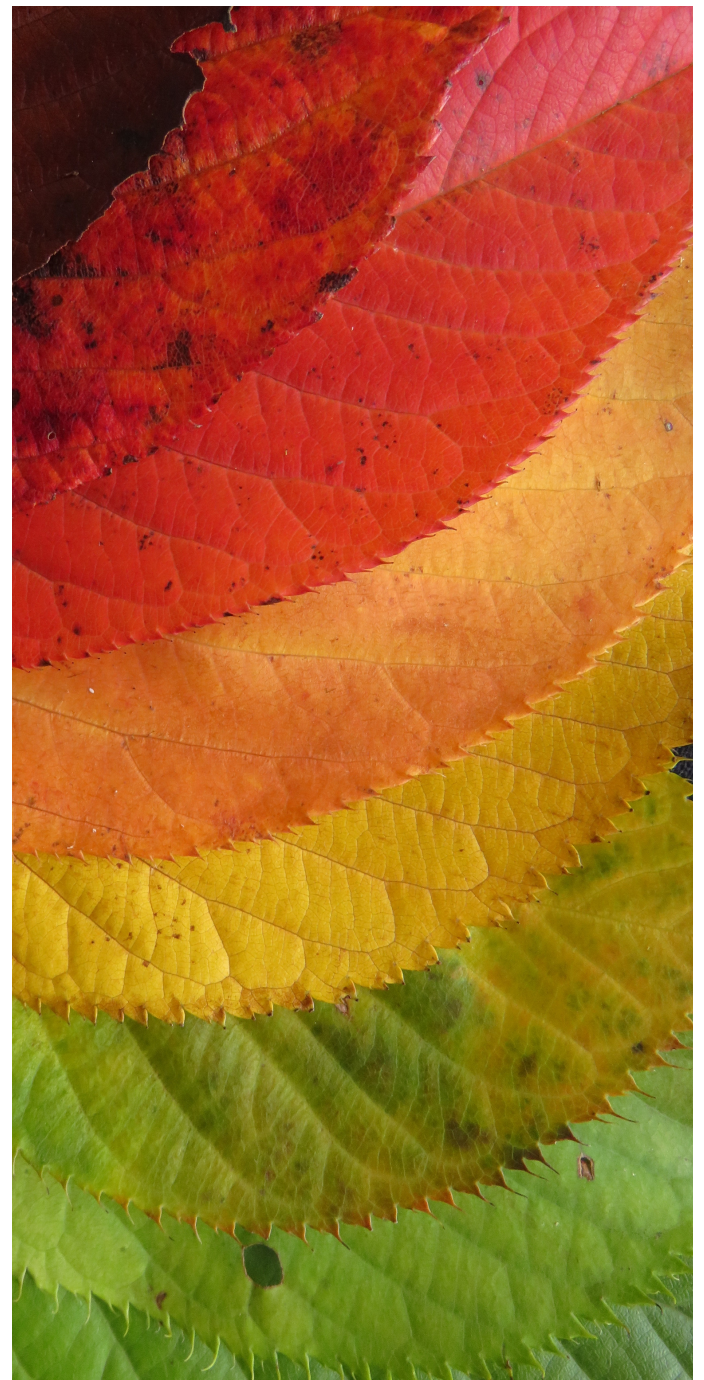
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WELCOME!

We have had a taste of cool weather statewide, and some have had a frost. Now is the transition time from active growth to dormancy. Clean-up in the garden is ongoing, but we typically have a lot of plant material we can add to a compost pile. How happy and healthy you end your garden can determine how well it starts growing next spring.

November is the ideal time to plant a new tree. Soils still have some residual heat, we often get ample rainfall in fall and winter and while the trees are dormant, they can get busy putting on roots, before they have to worry about supporting leaves and new growth. Choose trees based on mature size. If you are looking for a particular fall foliage color, choosing it when it has fall color can help you determine what you want. Be sure to look up when planting a tree—avoid planting under power lines or your tree won't be able to reach its full potential.

-*Sherri Sanders*



CRACKING DOWN ON CUTWORMS

Cutworms are not very common in plasticulture strawberries, but they can be a more common issue in matted-row production systems and weedy plantings.

Cutworms are primarily nocturnal and feed on both the foliage and stems of strawberry plants. Damage is usually observed in small clusters with healthy plants between damaged areas.

Feeding on stems can lead to reduced crown growth and significant yield losses. Cutworms should be controlled if damage is easily observed. Scout the field to determine the breadth of the problem, and consider spot spraying if it is localized to one area.

Spinosad and Intrepid will provide the best control, followed by Carbaryl, Bt, and Malathion. Make applications late in the evening to maximize control for this nocturnal pest.



Black cutworm (Top) and example of damage (Bottom)

FALL MANAGEMENT OF STRAWBERRY PESTS

By Aaron Cato | October 22, 2019

It's starting to cool down finally, and the majority of the strawberries across the state are in the ground and growing. We haven't heard of too many pest issues, which is typical for the fall months, but there are some issues that you could run in to. Remember to get out and scout your strawberries a few times in the fall, specially for insects and mites that can occasionally pop up. Consult the Arkansas Small Fruit Management Schedule and the Southern Small Fruits Consortium IPM Guide book for morespecific recommendations and pesticide use rates.



DISEASES ANTHRACNOSE

We've had a lot of questions this year about the potential for anthracnose to cause issues in the fall, and in general, anthracnose is not a common problem during this time.

However, if your plant source has confirmed that anthracnose issues were present, you may need to apply a fungicide to further development. If you are observing anthracnose symptomology such as petiole lesions (black sunken areas), stunting, marbling inside the crown, or plant death, contact your plant source to determine if issues have been discovered.

Sending samples to the Plant Health Clinic through your county agent may also be necessary.

The crown rot species, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, is the anthracnose species we generally deal with during the fall in newly planted transplants.

Captan is the best option for control followed by Topsin M WSB. Avoid using FRAC 11 fungicides such as Quadris for control of crown rot anthracnose.



Pictures showing symptomology of Strawberry anthracnose crown Rot, including circular leaf spot and marbling in the crown due to infection. Photo Courtesy of Frank J. Louws, North Carolina State University.

STORING TENDER "BULBS" FOR THE WINTER



Tender "bulbs" are plants which develop and grow from fleshy storage structures (bulbs, corms, rhizomes, tubers, and roots) which will not survive our cold winters outside. This includes caladium, calla lily, canna, dahlia, elephant ears, gladiolus, tuberous begonias and others.

Even though technically they are not all bulbs, the term bulb is used in this article for convenience. Since they are not winter-hardy in our climate, they need special treatment to save for the next growing season. Any of these bulbs are expensive, yet easy to keep, so it is worth the trouble to dig and store the underground portions of these plants. Not only do most tender bulbs look splendid from the time their foliage emerges to the moment when frost brings the show to a close, but they are also extremely easy to store for repeated displays. Most tender bulbs can be stored dormant and dry for the winter months.

After the foliage has been killed by a frost, simply cut off the dead leaves you can even leave the bulbs in their pots. Store them somewhere that will not drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit (about 40 degrees is ideal) a cold cellar or unheated basement is perfect. In the spring, un-pot and divide them if necessary, then replant them in fresh soil and water thoroughly. Begin fertilizing when growth resumes.

LEAF SPOT, LEAF SCORCH, OR STRAWBERRY LEAF BLIGHT



Leaf spot disease are not generally economically important diseases during the fall months, but the possibility of severe issues still exist. No thresholds currently exist but the typical disease pressure on a particular field should be taken in to account when considering control.

Control should not be considered unless prevalence is high and pressure is known to be excessive in that area. Rally is the best option for control followed by Captan + Topsin which provides good control when combined.

Strawberry leaf spot (Top left), Strawberry leaf scorch, (Top right), Strawberry leaf blight (Bottom). Photos Courtesy of Michael A. Ellis, The Ohio State University.

SWISS CHARD

While Swiss chard is an excellent edible vegetable, it also makes a very showy winter ornamental. Swiss chard is a kissing cousin of the common beet, but we grow this for leaf and stem production as an edible, but the showy stem or petiole is what makes it shine in the ornamental beds.

Swiss chard is easy to grow and will last almost year-round in Arkansas, but it is particularly showy in the fall, winter and early spring garden because of its colorful stalks and large glossy leaves.

The leafstalk can be a variety of colors including red, white, yellow or orange. Candy cane is a variety with red and white striped petioles.

Although Swiss chard prefers cool weather, it does not bolt (or go to seed) as quickly as many other cool season vegetables. The plant produces a small bulbous root, and if it is frozen back or cut



for harvest, it can produce another set of leaves from the root system, which increases your harvest. It can suffer some top damage if temperatures get below 26 degrees.

A light covering for a day or two will protect it and it should bounce back. Swiss chard can be planted from seed or transplant, but if you want it in your garden now, transplants are required. This is one plant that makes a beautiful edible ornamental.

POWDERY MILDEW

Powdery mildew is commonly observed on transplants but doesn't generally translate into a real issue after planting and through the fall months. Fall powdery mildew also doesn't increase risk in the spring where the disease can be more of an issue.

Economic losses from fall powdery mildew will generally only occur in high tunnels, where Quintec, Rally, or Rhyme will provide excellent control.

Avoid using FRAC 11 products or product mixtures on fall powdery mildew issues.



INSECTS AND MITES

Spider mites are often the most serious pest of strawberry for many of our growers. These pests feed on the underside of leaves and can quickly turn into a serious issue, particularly in the spring months. Mites often come in on plants from nurseries, and if mites are present when plugs are received, a miticide application should be used after planting.

Growers should scout before or after planting and again before row covers are put over plants. A hand lens is necessary to determine the prevalence of active mite populations. This should be used in conjunction with scouting for the yellowing and burnt-like appearance of damage that they cause to strawberry leaves. Cyclamen mites are a much less common problem in field grown strawberries, but they can



Two-spotted spider mite adults and eggs (top left), Spider mite damage (top right), Cyclamen mite damage (bottom left), and Cyclamen mite adult and eggs (bottom right).

originate on plugs from heavily infested nurseries. Feeding from cyclamen mites can cause leaves to appear stunted or crumpled, and heavy infestations can severely hurt plants. A 20x hand lens can be used to identify populations, but confirmation from the plant health clinic may be necessary. Spider mite control can be achieved with a variety of products including Agri-Mek, Acramite, Kanemite, Nealta, Oberon, Portal, Savey, Zeal, and the OMRI approved for organic JMS Stylet Oil. Cyclamen Mites can be controlled with Portal.

COLLARDS

Collards, one of the oldest members of the cabbage group, originated in the eastern Mediterranean or Asia Minor. These leafy, non-heading, wild forms of cabbage were first used for food in prehistoric times. They were cultivated by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and either the Romans or the Celts introduced them to Britain and France. They reached the British Isles in 400 B.C. The first mention of collards in America was in 1669, but they may have existed here much earlier.

Collards (also known as tree cabbage or non-heading cabbage) are cool-season vegetable greens that are rich in vitamins A and C and minerals. They grow better in warm weather and can tolerate more cold weather in the late fall than any other member of the cabbage family. Although collards are popular substitutes for cabbage in the South, they can also be grown in northern areas because of their tolerance to frost. Collards are close relatives to kale.

Cultural Practices

Plant in early spring for summer harvest and again in midsummer for fall and early winter harvest. Spacing and Depth of Planting Sow seed 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. Thin seedlings to 6 to 12 inches apart to allow enough space for plants to mature. Thinned plants may be eaten.

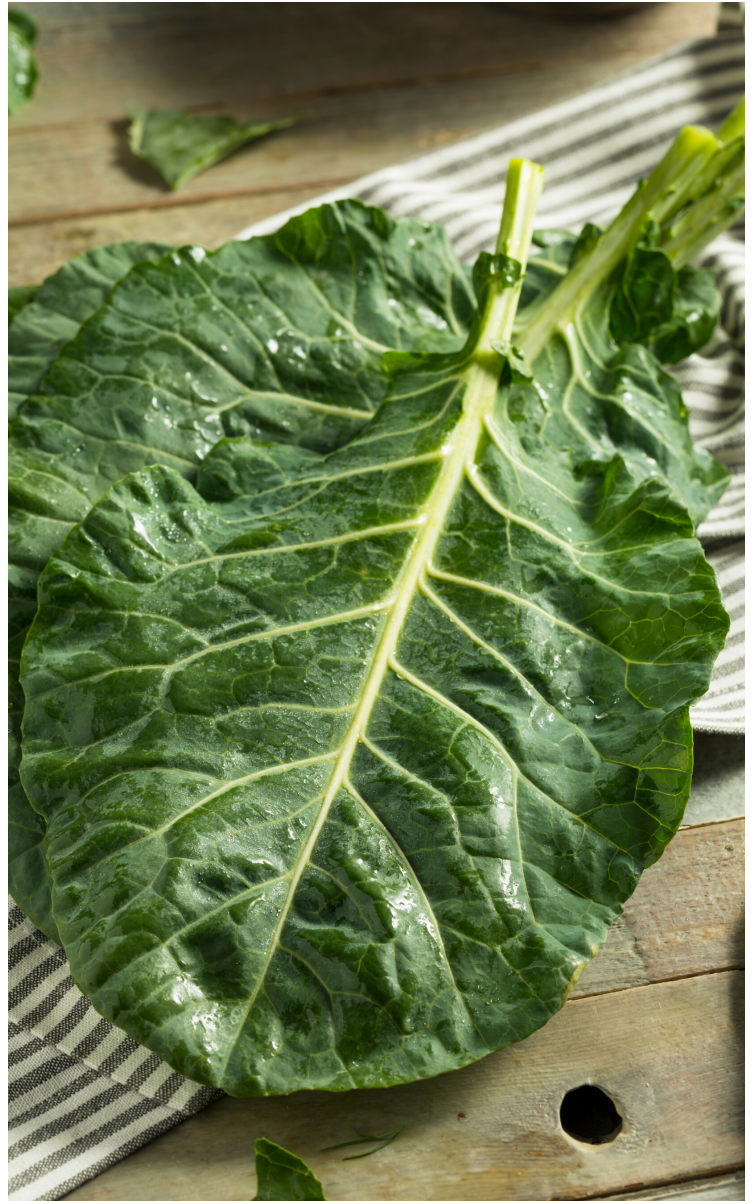
Allow at least 3 feet between rows because plants become large. For early production in fall or spring, use transplants.

Care

If you maintain ample soil moisture during hot periods in the summer, collards will produce an abundant harvest.

Recommended Cultivars for Arkansas are:

Georgia, Vates, Flash, Champion, Heavi-Crop, Green Glaze.



All green parts of the plant are edible and may be harvested at any time during the growing season. Plants grown 6 inches apart can be cut at ground level when they reach 6 to 10 inches in height. As an alternative method of harvesting, you can pick the large leaves when the plants are 10 to 12 inches high. This allows younger leaves to develop for later use. Some gardeners prefer the young, tender leaves and cut the inner rosette of young growth. This "loose head" may be blanched by tying the outer leaves together to keep out the sun. Frost improves the flavor in the fall.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are collard greens nutritious?

A. They are extremely nutritious and have a high content of vitamins A and C. The taste is similar to cabbage. A light frost near harvest time improves the flavor of collard greens.

Q. How do you harvest collard greens?

Should you harvest only the older, mature leaves or pull up the entire plant?

A. Collard greens can be harvested either way. However, maximum yields result if the leaves from the bottom of the plant are harvested before they become too old. The first harvest generally occurs after 60 days.

Q. The stems of my collard plants rot once foliage is removed. The decayed area smells foul.

A. This is bacterial soft rot which enters through the broken areas where the leaves were removed. This can be controlled with a spray of fungicide containing copper sulphate or copper bordeaux mix at harvesting.



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