

AGRONOMIC UPDATE

Tobacco Headlines

It has been an unusual year for tobacco production in regards to insect and disease discovered throughout the county.

Common stalk borers were identified in early June, which is typically not a pest found in tobacco. Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) has also been discovered in a couple of fields last week. This disease is also a rarity. Although we usually see a few plants each year with symptoms, no significant production loss occurs. What we have seen this year however, has some potential to create problems.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV)

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) is spread by thrips. Thrips are small insects which can be distributed to wide areas by wind movement. Thrips spring or fly when disturbed. Hot dry weather is normally unfavorable for their development. The virus may cause ring spots on the leaves. On many occasions infected leaves will have dead areas within the veins of the leaf. Also, the dead veins may cause the leaf to pull or pucker to one side and become distorted, as seen in the photo below. Young plants infected with TSWV may wither and often die.

Common Stalk Borers

These caterpillars have a yellow brown head and distinct white stripes that run along the body from head to tail. The stripes are interrupted about 1/3 of the way back from the head by a dark purple "saddle". About 1-1/2" long when full grown, these borers are live inside the stalks of wilted plants or stems of wilted leaves.

Usually, only a few plants are affected by borers, and they tend to be along grassy field margins or waterways. The stalk borers move in from these areas after outgrowing the plants (often grasses), in which they were developing.

Common stalk borers tend to enter the first plant they come across with a stalk large enough to hold them. Usually, they will remain in the plant unless it dies or they outgrow it and are forced to move again.

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Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) on burley tobacco

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Remnants of Sore Shin?

Did you know that the same pathogen that causes what we refer to as sore shin or damping off is the same pathogen responsible for target spot? The pathogen, *Rhizoctonia solani* can be found in float systems and in the field. Unfortunately, this year seemed to have favorable conditions for this disease in both environments.

Sore shin or damping off (Rhizoc) is often confused with black shank as typically the first symptoms are yellowing and wilting of the plant. However, once established in the field, plants with sore shin just won't grow due to their stem being girdled with lesions (see photo below) preventing uptake of water and nutrients. If the lesion encircles the entire stem, death of the plant usually results. Bear in mind, tobacco transplanted to the field with active stem lesions may make them more susceptible to black shank...

If you have plants infested with the strain of *Rhizoctonia solani* that causes target spot, yet another debilitating disease in tobacco, beware of a late-season infestation. We have seen an increase in target spot on Greene County tobacco the last couple of years. See the *Production Guide* (link provided below) for spraying recommendations.



Rhizoctonia (sore shin/stem rot/damping off) on tobacco seedlings

Common Stalk Borers

(continued from page 1)

Plants turn yellow and wilt for a variety of reasons. To confirm stalk borers, look for a small hole in the stem or stalk. Carefully split the tissue and look for the insect or the sawdust-like waste material inside. Insecticidal control of borers within plants is impossible.

Common stalk borers are vulnerable to insecticides only as they move from plant to plant or chew on treated surfaces as they enter a plant. Their movement cannot be predicted accurately so preventive measures are not feasible. Fortunately, in most cases only a small numbers of plants are affected. The damage potential is greatest in long, narrow fields where a great proportion of the plants are along grassy edges. Even then, there is no alternative once the insects are established in the plant.



Target Spot lesions on tobacco. Note the "bull's eye" appearance of the lesion.

2013-2014
Kentucky & Tennessee
TOBACCO
PRODUCTION GUIDE



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
INSTITUTE OF TOBACCO
UK
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2014 Tobacco Production Guide

UT Agronomic Variety Trials

The UT Agronomic Variety Trials program is focused on providing producers with the highest quality, unbiased, head-to-head yield and agronomic data available on crop varieties that are being marketed, or targeted for marketing to producers here in Tennessee.

Interested in looking over 2013 yield data? Click [here](#) to access the latest agronomic reports.

Curious about how the program works or think you might be interested in participating in the program? Click [here](#) for more information.



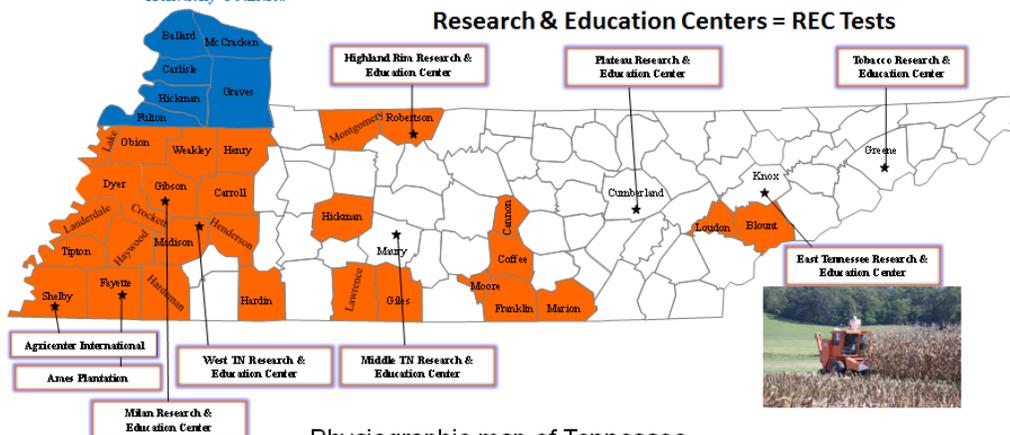
UT AGRONOMIC VARIETY TESTING

COUNTIES AND RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTERS

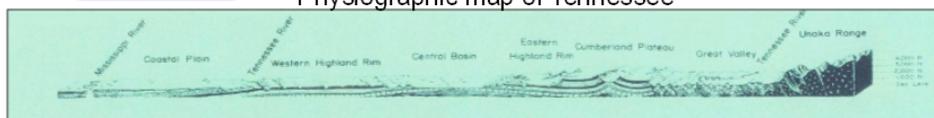
Orange & Blue = County Standardized Test Program

Kentucky Counties

Research & Education Centers = REC Tests



Physiographic map of Tennessee



Forage and Grain Analysis

As of July 1, 2014, forage analysis options and prices have changed at the Soil, Plant and Pest Center (SPPC).

Grains, grain mixtures and forage/grain mixes will no longer be analyzed at SPPC.

For information regarding current pricing and how to sample, click [here](#).

Soybean Scout School

July 18th at 9:15 AM at the East Tennessee Research and Education Center (3215 Alcoa Hwy, Knoxville, TN).

This field-side program will last 2-2.5 hours and address general crop management including plant development and management of weed, disease and insect pests. As always, scouting supplies and sweep nets are provided at each location on a first come first serve basis.

There is no registration fee to attend but please register by calling Steven Huff at (423) 623-7531 or email Shuff2@utk.edu.

Wheat variety trials are conducted across the state to compare relative performances of varieties. Each variety is planted multiple times at each location to minimize field variability and to better predict performance potential.

Resources at your Fingertips...

- ◇ [Weed Control Manual](#)
- ◇ [Insect Control Recommendations for Field Crops](#)
- ◇ [Tennessee Wheat Production Guide](#)
- ◇ [Sunflower Production Guide](#)
- ◇ [Soybean Production Guide](#)
- ◇ [Planting Corn for Grain in Tennessee](#)
- ◇ [Lime and Fertilizer Recommendations for Field Crops](#)
- ◇ [National Ag Statistics Survey \(NASS\)](#)
- ◇ [Tennessee Corn Growers Association](#)
- ◇ [Corn and Soybean Digest](#)
- ◇ [Tennessee Market Highlights](#)

UT Extension...

UT Extension is the premier educational organization for all Tennesseans. Extension increases economic prosperity, improves environmental sustainability, and enhances well-being in rural and urban communities.

UT Extension helps Tennesseans to improve their quality of life and solve problems through the application of research and evidenced-based knowledge about agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development.

virtualTRADE

Create an account and learn trading basics! Start with a basic futures trade and establish a long (buy) or short (sell) position on corn or live cattle.

Once you create an account (all free), there is a link on the virtual trade platform "\$ Adjust Virtual Funds /Trading Level". It is on the right hand side of the screen. Click the link and make sure the enable futures trading box has a check mark in it and select uncovered call writing from the middle menu.

[Play Now!!!](#)



Contact Us...

Give us a call for more information about our services!

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[UTcrops News Blog](#)

CORN FARMERS COALITION

DID YOU KNOW? Tennessee row crops are produced on more than 70,000 farms with crop land accounting for almost 55 percent of all farm land. Three of the top five state agricultural commodities are row crops: soybean, corn and cotton and cottonseed. Soybean, corn, cotton, wheat and tobacco make up almost 45% of all cash receipts annually from production agriculture. Over the past five years, row crops generated an estimated 6.3 billion dollars in total revenue for producers across the state. In recent years, steady to increasing commodity prices have encouraged growers to plant more acres of corn and wheat while adjusting acres of crops such as soybean and cotton.