

NOBLE COUNTY NEWS

SUMMER/FALL 2025



CALENDAR

August 2025

- 20 - Manure PARP (Category 14), Ligonier
- 20 - Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal, Whitley
- 21 - ServSafe Food Handler Program, Adams County
- 25 - registration deadline for Master Gardener Basic Training

September 2025

- 6 - Master Gardener Symposium, Ligonier
- 10 - NEPAC Field Day, Columbia City
- 13 - State Master Gardener Conference, Danville
- 13 - Barn Tour, LaGrange County
- 19 - ServSafe Food Handler Program, Kendallville

November 2025

- 7-8 - Homesteading Conference, Kendallville
- 19 - Commercial Pesticide Applicator Conference, Fort Wayne

December 2025

- 10 - PARP, Albion & Columbia City

January 2026

- 13-15 - Fort Wayne Farm Show
- 29 - Commercial Pesticide Applicator Conference, Goshen

WHY DO INVASIVE SPECIES MATTER?

- Adapted from news article by John Woodmansee

If invasive species are not on your radar, consider why many believe there is merit to being aware of invasive species, the damage they can do, and understanding some management/prevention strategies.

Awareness and prevention efforts are important because invasive species impact just about everyone. When not monitored or controlled, invasive species can cause harm to our economy, environment, or human health. The term “invasive” is used for aggressive non-native species that grow and reproduce rapidly, displace native species, and cause major disturbance to the areas in which they are present.

Invasive species can impact native plants, insects, birds, fish, water bodies, and wildlife. Control efforts are expensive and time-consuming. Invasive species, if left uncontrolled, can and will limit land and water use now and into the future.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) defines invasive species: “Invasive species are plants, animals, and diseases that are not native to the area in question and have or are likely to cause environmental, human health, or financial harm in Indiana.”

The National Park Service website states it is often thought that the terms ‘invasive’ and ‘non-native’ can be used interchangeably, but this is not always true. “For a plant or animal to be invasive, it must do harm,” they said. “Simply being non-native is not cause for concern.” They go on to state that non-native species are organisms that do not occur naturally in an area but are introduced as the result of deliberate or accidental human activities.

So, an invasive species can be a non-native insect, plant (terrestrial or aquatic), pathogen, disease, aquatic organism, or animal that causes harm to the environment, economy, or human, animal, or plant health. Note, however, that not all non-native organisms cause harm.

Some may even have unknowingly used non-native species in their own landscape or garden. According to the National Park Service, non-native species, such as petunias and tomatoes, present no threat to native plants and have been cultivated by humans for centuries. Additionally, a species may be native to one area of the country, but not native to others. Colorado blue spruce fits this description. It is native to Colorado and other western states, but is not native to Indiana.

Additional Resources:



- Report Invasive Species <https://ag.purdue.edu/reportinvasive/>
- Indiana DNR: www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species/
- Indiana Native Plant Society: <https://indiananativeplants.org/>
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network: <http://www.mipn.org/>



Invasive Species: non-native plants, animals, or microbes that pose threats to human health, the environment, or the economy.



Corn Disease Update

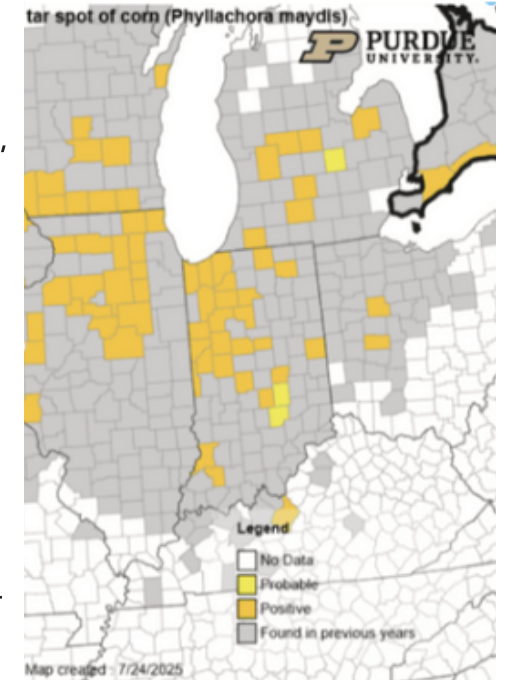
Adapted from Darcy Telenko's article: extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/tar-spot-and-southern-corn-rust-update-in-indiana-5/

Southern corn rust has been confirmed in two counties (Knox and Warrick) and awaiting samples from Porter, Shelby, Bartholomew, Decatur, Jennings that are highly probable. Tar spot continues to be documented across the state. If you have not looked for these diseases, now is the time, since much of the corn is at tassel or silk or beyond across the state. There are currently 25 counties with a positive confirmation of tar spot (Figure 1). Gray leaf spot is also confirmed in many of our research sites.

Here are Darcy's thoughts on what to consider to make a fungicide application decision.

- Field history/previous crop – what diseases have been an issue in previous years?
- Amount of disease present in the field – what diseases do you find? Where are they in the canopy? Is the disease active in your county or surrounding counties?
- Hybrid/variety susceptibility to diseases
- Current weather conditions
- The value of the crop and cost of fungicide application.

Fungicide applications can be effective to reduce disease and protect yield, but there are a number of factors that need to consider. See more details from Darcy's article at the link above.



OISC sent reminder postcards to Private Applicators about required PARP points. If you have enough points, return your renewal upon receipt. If you need points, be sure to get them by the end of the year.

Questions may be addressed to:

Audrey Powell: 765-494-6271, powellaw@purdue.edu
Nate Davis: 765-494-7108, davi1280@purdue.edu

2025 OISC Clean Sweep

The Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Program is designed to collect and dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides. This disposal service is free up to 250 pounds per participant. This is a great opportunity to legally dispose of unwanted products at little or no cost. Everyone is eligible to participate.

The Clean Sweep will occur on August 20, 2025 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Whitley County Ag Plus (5501 S. SR 9) in Columbia City.

For more info go to: [Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Project - Pesticide Disposal](#)



Rooted & Resilient
Homesteading Conference
Save the Date
 November 7 & 8, 2025
 Kendallville, Indiana

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE FOR MORE INFO
 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR NEWS AND UPDATES

PURDUE EXTENSION

Master Gardener
Basic Training Class

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Extension
 PURDUE EXTENSION
 MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Mondays: Sep. 8 - Dec. 15

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Location:

First half of class, 9/8 - 10/20:
 Noble County Extension Office
 109 N York Street, Albion

Second half of class, 10/27 - 12/15:
 Whitley County Extension Office
 524 Branch Court, Columbia City

Applications due Aug. 25

Details at
extension.purdue.edu/county/noble/anr-noble-county/sub-media1.html



Questions:

Noble County: Ann Kline
kline60@purdue.edu
 260-636-2111

Whitley County: John Woodmansee
jwoodman@purdue.edu
 260-244-7615



~ Topics ~

Plant Science
 Soils & Plant Nutrition
 Insects, Weeds, Diseases
 Pesticide Safety & Alternatives
 Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs
 Herbaceous Ornamentals
 Woody Ornamentals
 Plant Science

If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Ann Kline (260-636-2111) or John Woodmansee (260-244-7615) by August 25, 2025. Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.



FALL SYMPOSIUM

September 6, 2025
 8:00am - 12:30pm
 West Noble Middle School
 5194 U.S. 33 St. Rd.
 Ligonier IN 46767

Open to the public!

\$25 per person, Includes morning snack, handout materials and demonstrations. Contact the Noble County Extension Office for registration. Located in the Noble County Annex at 109 N. York St. Albion 260-636-2111



Symposium counts as 3.5 educational hours for those in the Master Gardener program.

PRESENTERS & TOPICS

FREYA BERNTSON

Freya Berntson- Natural Resources Manager will speak about **Seed Collecting and Storage**
 Ann Kline- Purdue Extension will present a **Glyphosate Case Study: Pesticide Controversy**

ANN KLINE

CHRISTI NICKEY

Christi Nickey- New farm manager at Merry Lea, **Preparing Your Garden for Winter**

DEMONSTRATIONS

JAN KEEFER

Winter sowing

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS

Demo- Flower Pounding, guests make and take.

Sara Weeks

Make a Pine Cone Decoration

(You need to choose one demonstration)

There will be local vendor tables.

Helping Others Grow

FALL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Fall Symposium Schedule
 September 6, 2025, Saturday

8:00am to 8:25am: Registration

8:30: Welcome- Directions, Important information, Introduction

8:45-9:30: Freya Berntson - Goshen College presentation on Seed Collecting and Storage

9:35-10:20: Ann Kline - Pesticide Controversy, Glyphosate case study

10 Minute break

10:35 - 11:20- Christi Nickey- New farm manager at Merry Lea, Preparing Your Garden for Winter

11:30 - 12:15 - Demonstrations:

One chosen:

****Jan Keefer - Winter Sowing**

****junior Master Gardeners - Flower Pounding**

****Sara Weeks - Make a Pine cone decoration**

12:15 - 12:30 - Wrap-up, Door Prizes, Concluding Remarks, Evaluations



NEPAC FIELD DAY

Join Purdue Extension in the field at the Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC) to learn about current crop management best practices from Purdue Extension Specialists, network with local agriculture businesses, and an optional afternoon UAV session.

Private Pesticide, Commercial Pesticide, and Certified Crop Advisor credits are available

RSVP requested to this FREE program by Sept. 3 at
<https://purdue.link/NEPAC2025>



Speakers include Purdue University Faculty Dan Quinn (corn), Darcy Telenko (plant diseases), Shaun Casteel (soybeans), and Shalamar Armstrong (cover crops). Lunch included in the field day. PARP Credits Sponsored by Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance.

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact John E. Woodmansee prior to the meeting by August 27, 2025 at 260-244-7615 or jwoodman@purdue.edu. For special dietary needs contact John E. Woodmansee at 260-244-7615 or jwoodman@purdue.edu by August 27, 2025. If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact John E. Woodmansee prior to the meeting at 260-244-7615 or jwoodman@purdue.edu by August 27, 2025.



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

NEPAC

**4821 East 400 South
Columbia City, IN 46725**

FREE

REGISTER AT:
<https://purdue.link/NEPAC2025>

[EXTENSION.PURDUE.EDU](https://purdue.link/NEPAC2025)



Extension



MANURE: FARM TO FIELD

AUGUST 20TH 2025
300 S MAIN ST. LIGONIER, IN 46767
3PM - 5:30PM

CAT 14 CREDITS:
PARP - CCH

Sponsored by Indiana Soybean Alliance
& Indiana Corn Marketing Council



Join us for an informative session with David Beard, owner of a manure application business, as he shares practical steps and key decisions for applying livestock manure. He'll cover essential recordkeeping practices necessary no matter the farm size.

Register through the link below, or by calling or emailing Kathryn Jennings at (574) 533-0554
jennin30@purdue.edu
Registration closes August 19th

<https://tinyurl.com/y274kep4>

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Closed all government holidays

*"Don't judge each day by
the harvest you reap but by
the seeds that you plant."*

Robert Louis Stevenson

ANN KLINE
AG & NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATOR
KLINE60@PURDUE.EDU

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