

## Purdue Extension Ag & Natural Resources Newsletter – September 2022

Please give me a call (812-838-1331) or send me an email at [aneufeld@purdue.edu](mailto:aneufeld@purdue.edu) with any feedback.

Please send me events to include in the newsletter! I know I do not have a complete list and need to build a better base. Any help is greatly appreciated. Thanks!

### **Current Issues**

**Lawn Renovations-** Back when I used to work on a golf course at Oak Meadow we had to hand water greens to cool them off and keep them from dying every afternoon of summer. The stress of being mowed daily at 1/8” plus foot traffic and heat and humidity was a bad combination for creeping bentgrass. However, my boss every summer would say it’s almost September 10<sup>th</sup>. He would always tell me that September 10<sup>th</sup> was when we could stop hand watering greens because that was when the heat would shut off and the nights would get colder. Ever since that first summer I’ve paid attention and I can say that September 10<sup>th</sup>, like clockwork, is when our summers end. After moving to sod production and now in my current role as Ag. Educator I circle September 10<sup>th</sup> as our ideal seeding timing. If your lawn needs a full redo or just an aerification and overseeding now is the time to do it.

If you’re overseeding you will want to use a fertilizer that has a higher amount of Phosphorous. The seedlings that germinate after overseeding need the Phosphorous to develop their root systems and must have that nutrient available on top of the soil to be able to use it. Fertilizer analysis on the bag will have 3 numbers on it. They are always listed in this order Nitrogen (N)-Phosphorous (P)-Potassium (K). You will want to select a starter fertilizer where the middle number (P) is the highest of the three numbers. If you are not seeding and are generally happy with your lawn, it is still time to fertilize to maintain density. Fall is the ideal time to fertilize as the grass is taking up the nutrients and using it to build its root system for winter. You will always need to supply your lawn with Nitrogen, but it is a good idea to soil test and determine if your lawn has Phosphorous and Potassium deficiencies before applying a complete fertilizer. Please contact me about this if you have any questions. There is some nuance to choosing the correct fertilizer for the right time and I’d love to discuss it more with you.

**Gardening-** This spring I established a small garden in our backyard after a three-year hiatus following our move. I planted tomatoes, bell peppers, banana peppers, lettuce, jalapeños, zucchini and cucumbers. While we had some successes and failures and certainly an oversupply of tomatoes, I can say that I’ll be doing a garden again next year. I’m not sure that it was a dollar-for-dollar savings from the grocery store but I did really enjoy spending that time with my kids cutting out the sod, pulling the weeds, finding big worms and ultimately letting them pick the ripe and sometimes not so ripe vegetables to eat for dinner that night. I find great satisfaction in eating healthy vegetables that I grew on my land with the full knowledge of what went into

that crop. If you haven't started gardening, I'd encourage you to try it. I'd love to help you in your journey to become your own producer.



As our summer growing season comes to a close, I'd encourage you to think about next year. If you do not have a fall vegetable crop established, it would be a great time to plant a cover crop for your garden bed. Cover crops are often thought of as only for large scale farmers, but in a garden setting they offer many of the same benefits. They aren't grown with the intent to be harvested but are valuable for reducing erosion, increasing drainage, and improving soil structure by increasing organic matter and adding biomass below the soil surface. Small seed bags are available for free at the SWCD office in Mt. Vernon courtesy of PUSH-IT. (Promoting Urban Soil Health-In Towns)

**Spotted Lanternfly-** A Spotted Lanternfly population was found in Northern Indiana in August and it is the second time in two years there has been a confirmed sighting. At this time of year, the insects are in the adult stage and are more recognizable. This insect is listed as an invasive insect and is extremely destructive to many fruits and trees. Here is a picture of it in the adult stage.



Anyone that spots signs of the spotted lanternfly should contact DEPP by calling 866-NO EXOTIC (866-663-9684) or send an email to [DEPP@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DEPP@dnr.IN.gov). For more information on this or other invasive pests see the following link <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/pests-of-concern/spotted-lanternfly/>

## Ag & Natural Resources Events

September 10 6-7:30 CDT [Invasive Species Field Day @ SIPAC](#) (Dubois, IN)

September 15-Oct 6 [DIY Lawncare](#) (Vincennes)

September 17 [Pond Management Day @ SIPAC](#) (Dubois, IN)

September 21- October 20 [Livestock and Poultry 101 Workshop](#) (Ft. Branch, IN)

September 7 2 p.m. [IBCA Field Day](#) (Dubois, IN)

September 10 8 a.m.-4 p.m. CDT [Invasive Plant Control Training for Landowners](#) (Dubois, IN)

September 28-29 [Category 3B Pest Management and Lawn Maintenance Workshop](#) (West Lafayette, IN)

September 30 [Hoosier Hay Contest](#)

October 1 [Dr. Doug Tallamy talk on small actions to impact the environment](#) (UE)

October 2 [Midwest Hair Sheep Sale](#) (Salem, IN)

October 8 [Purdue Fencing School @ SIPAC](#) (Dubois, IN)

## Standing Resources

[Area Educators Have a YouTube Channel](#)

[Purdue Fast Start Program for High School Aged Youth.](#)

[Calendar of Purdue Extension Community Development Events](#)

[Pest and Crop Newsletter](#)

[Hoosier Ag Today](#)

[The Kernel-Purdue Corn Extension](#)

[Tools For Today's Farmers podcast](#)

[Purdue Landscape Report](#)

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