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Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Corn Fungal Disease Scouting

If you haven't scouted corn fields for disease – now is the time. Conditions continue to be good for Gray Leaf Spot development and the number of counties reporting Southern Rust has now expanded in to southeast Kansas.

While Gray Leaf Spot tends to start low in the canopy and move upward, Southern Rust spores may be found anywhere throughout the plant canopy. The level of disease pressure and where it is found in the canopy in combination with weather forecasts should help guide decisions about whether to spray or not – but they need to be made soon. Research has suggested applications between VT to R3 have the greatest potential for protecting corn yield. Much of our corn is reaching this stage now.

If you're considering an application, start scouting now. Many fungicides are labeled for both Gray Leaf Spot and Southern Rust. For a compilation of efficacy ratings for corn fungicides visit <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/resources/publications/fungicide-efficacy-for-control-of-corn-diseases> .

Extension Master Gardener Enrollment – Open Now

The K-State Research and Extension Master Gardener program is a volunteer program in which K-State Research and Extension 'trades' classroom training for volunteer time. Training consists of 40 to 50 hours of instruction in all aspects of horticulture from Kansas State University Extension specialists, extension agents and local experts in specific subject matter fields. Upon completion of training requirements, volunteers donate an equivalent number of hours of service as was received in instruction locally in their community and across the District. Educational Extension related service activities are coordinated by the local agent with guidance from established Master Gardeners.

The first class of Meadowlark Extension District Extension Master Gardeners has completed their program year and that means enrollment for class two is now open. Applications can be obtained upon request from any Meadowlark Extension District Office or by e-mailing me at dhallaue@ksu.edu . Applications can also be found on the Lawn and Garden page of the Meadowlark Extension District website at: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/> .

Classes will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. every Thursday starting September second and running through mid-December (location to be determined). Participants should plan to attend all in-person classes as part of their training then commit to approved volunteer offers after coursework is complete.

Enrollment is limited and course fees will apply. Deadline for enrollments is August 10th with an interview conducted following receipt of application. For further information, check out the application at the link above or drop me a line. The K-State Research and Extension Master Gardener program has a long history of providing local education and service to local communities. If you are interested, be sure to start the application process today.