Tomato Mosaic Virus Update

Many tomato growers are aware of the incidence of Tomato Mosaic Virus (TomMV) this year in a few growers’ fields, as well as in the breeding program’s greenhouse and field plots at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center (MHCREC) in Mills River.

TomMV causes symptoms on tomato that include leaf yellowing in odd (mosaic) patterns, leaf distortion, stunting of plants and interior browning of tomato fruit. TomMV has a very wide host range which includes many common cultivated plants, like tomato, eggplant, pepper and tobacco, as well as weeds including nightshades, dock, pokeweed, smartweed, purslane and many others commonly found here in WNC.

TomMV is spread by mechanical means, through seed contamination and from volunteer infected plants and weeds.

Because of the concern regarding the incidence of TomMV this year, Dr. Kelly Ivors and Dr. Jim Moyer from the Plant Pathology Dept at NCSU collected plant samples and conducted genetic analysis of the isolates. Dr. Ivors and Dr. Moyer presented their findings to growers at a meeting on September 10 at the MHCREC.

Here is a summary of their findings and recommendations for control:

All NC isolates that were tested were identified as Tomato Mosaic Virus (TomMV) strains by their DNA sequence. No new or exotic viruses were introduced.

Two groups of TomMV were detected based on DNA sequence analysis of one region. Both groups of TomMV were found in grower fields and at the MHCREC. These 2 groups were very closely related.

Control Recommendations for TomMV:

1. Inspect all transplants for signs of odd growth and symptoms.
2. Destroy plants with TomMV immediately. Once TomMV is diagnosed in a field, remove and destroy ALL symptomatic plants and associated debris immediately to prevent further spread through plant handling. Adjacent plants and weeds should also be removed.
3. Once TomMV is identified in a field, scout the entire field for symptoms weekly to identify and remove new infections.

Continued on next page.
Farm Energy Efficiency Program (FEEP)

North Carolina Farm Bureau (NCFB) will host a series of meetings to discuss a program to make your farm more energy efficient. Presentations will focus on discussing the program highlights and elaborate on how FEEP can provide extremely low cost farm energy assessments. NCFB will also introduce their energy efficiency cost-share and renewable energy grant programs. Representatives from USDA will be on hand to discuss how this program leads into their 9007 (REAP) program which provides grants and loan guarantees for energy improvements.

To learn more about the FEEP program a meeting will be held on Thursday November 19 at the Mountain Horticulture Research and Extension Center located at 455 Research Dr. in Mills River, NC. A meal will be provided by Freeman’s Barbeque in Hendersonville!

Please RSVP at least 5 days in advance if you are planning to join us.

To RSVP or if you have further questions please contact:
Lendy Johnson
Phone: 919.782.1705 ext. 8209
E-mail: lendy.johnson@ncfb.org or ncfarmenergy@ncfb.org
5301 Glenwood Ave.
PO Box 27766
Raleigh, NC 27612
http://www.ncfarmenergy.org

Tomato Mosaic Virus Update continued...

Continued from front page…

4. All areas diagnosed with TomMV should be worked last. Only work in fields when necessary and minimize all handling of plants.
5. Workers should sanitize hands and equipment using 10% Trisodium phosphate (TSP), 10% Clorox, or 20% dried skim milk. Equipment should be sanitized with a high pressure sprayer to remove all organic material; worker clothes should be laundered.
6. Stakes from contaminated areas should be destroyed.
7. If possible, rotate field out of tomatoes and pepper for 2-3 years to limit carryover.
8. DO NOT SAVE SEED FROM INFECTED PLANTINGS.

In order to eliminate TomMV from the MHCREC the following precautions have been/will be taken:

1. Plants were first killed with herbicide, then plots were burned using a flame thrower.
2. Stakes, string, plastic and irrigation lines were thrown away.
3. All surrounding vegetation within 25 feet was destroyed.
4. Tools and equipment were properly sanitized using the above mentioned means.
5. Workers were provided with and adhered to strict sanitation protocols.
6. All tomato seed produced during 2009 were destroyed or subjected to vigorous seed sanitation procedures.
7. Rigorous monitoring of 2010 seedlings and greenhouse will be conducted.

**Thanks to Dr. Kelly Ivors for supplying and editing this information!**
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Workshop December 9!

Community supported agriculture, or CSAs, have become a popular means for growers to market their produce and consumers to get fresh, local seasonal vegetables directly from farmers. For those who have never heard of CSAs, the concept is simple: A farmer sells “shares” of his/her produce to the public at the beginning of the season. In return for cash they supply the farmer, the consumer gets a box of diverse vegetables or other farm products throughout the harvest season. This system is beneficial to farmers looking for cash flow early in the season and a steady stream of consumers throughout the year. CSAs are also beneficial to consumers who, not only want fresh, seasonal produce, but also want a connection to their food and a relationship with local growers.

If this sounds exciting or intriguing to you, come learn about the basics of starting a CSA.

When?: December 9th from 9 am—11 am  
Where?: The Henderson County Extension Office, 740 Glover St, Hendersonville, NC 28739 (in Jackson Park)

The workshop is free, but let us know you are coming. Contact Ivy Olson at 828.697.4891 or email ivy_olson@ncsu.edu.

Get in ASAP’s Farm Directories

The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP) is a non-profit organization that helps local farmers market their products. They have some great opportunities available to growers of all sizes. Get the word out about the great products on your farm!

Farm to Business Trade Directory
Are you interested in getting your product directly into the hands of more local grocers, schools, restaurants, hospitals, or local distributors? Put your farm name where these buyers can find it – in the Mixing Bowl. The Mixing Bowl is an on-line farm to business directory. The Mixing Bowl connects area business buyers with farms who can sell wholesale quantities directly to them. To get an idea of how this works, see buyappalachian.org/page/mixingbowl. Trying to sell butternut squash or beef right now? You don’t have to be listed in order to use this search function—give it a try. How do you get in? When you provide your food guide information, you will also be able to show your interest in selling wholesale to these buyers, and will be asked a series of questions related to your delivery area, minimum order, packaging, product list, and so on.

Local Food Guide
If you own a local family farm, get listed in the Local Food Guide. The guide, published by ASAP, is one of the largest and most comprehensive guides of its kind anywhere in the United States. The guide is in its ninth year of publication. Over 90,000 copies will be printed in 2010. Listings are free for farms and tailgate markets, print copies are available for free around the region, and a searchable guide is online at www.buyappalachian.org. The deadline for inclusion is March 1, 2010. If your business is already included in the current edition, update your listing for 2010. The new edition will be available in spring.

While it’s easy to get in both the Mixing Bowl and the Local Food Guide, given 30 minutes to sit down at your computer, you don’t have to be in both publications. If you are a farm with primarily wholesale distribution and do not wish to take calls from individual households, just check the “Opt out of the Printed Guide” box early in the interview. Create your listing at www.buyappalachian.org. If you do not have internet access and need to register by phone or request a paper application, call the ASAP office at 828.236.1282.
NCDA&CS Offers Organic Certification Cost-Share Assistance

RALEIGH -- Organic growers in North Carolina can apply for partial reimbursement of the cost of becoming certified or recertified producers through a program offered by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Growers who are certified or recertified after Sept. 30, 2009, can apply for assistance. The program will pay 75 percent of the cost of certification, up to $750.

The program is for the 2009-2010 season, and is funded through a $30,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the deadline to apply for reimbursement is Sept. 30, 2010.

To apply, growers must fill out an authorization form that can be found online at www.ncdaorganic.com. The completed form, a copy of the farm’s certification and a copy of the receipts from the certifying agency should be mailed to the NCDA&CS Division of Marketing, Attn. Kevin Hardison, 1020 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1020. The invoice must show the total cost of certification and the 75 percent portion that is eligible for reimbursement.

Growers with questions can call Hardison at (919) 733-7887.

“As consumer interest in certified products has grown, so has the number of organic producers statewide,” Hardison said. “North Carolina has more than 6,000 certified organic acres, and these farms produce a variety of vegetables, livestock, herbs and other products.”

CONTACT:  
Kevin Hardison, marketing specialist  
NCDA&CS Marketing Division  
919.733.7887

Hops Informational Meeting November 18

Are you interested in growing hops? We’ve pulled together a group of horticulture experts, hops growers, and other knowledgeable individuals to explain what is involved in growing hops, what the current and projected market situation is, our best estimates of the economics of local production, and how we can all work together to grow the WNC hops industry. Several local commercial hops growers will share their perspectives after a year or two of production.

When? November 18, 2009, 1:00 to 5:00 PM  
Where? Camp New Life at the Mountain Research Station, Waynesville, NC  

For more information, contact Erin_Freeman@ncsu.edu or Tim_Mathews@ncsu.edu. Meeting fee is $5; pay at the door. Cash only, please. Please RSVP to the Haywood County Extension Office at 828.456.3575 or Erin_Freeman@ncsu.edu.
Introducing: NC Farmer’s Market Association

There are more than 150 Farmers Markets in North Carolina that produce millions of dollars in revenue for the local farm economies across the State of North Carolina. Decisions are made each day by various entities that affect agriculture, farming and farmers markets. It is time our Farmers Markets had a voice.

Now they do!

The Farmers Market Association of North Carolina is a statewide, nonprofit organization focused on Supporting & Promoting Local, Sustainable Food!

Visit http://ncfarmersmarkets.org for more information, to become a member or to join the mailing list.

WNC AgOptions Grants: Intent to Apply Deadline November 23

Are you taking on a project next year on your farm? Will this project help make your farm more sustainable for you and your family? Is this an innovative project that growers in your county haven’t tried yet but may demonstrate economic viability of farms in WNC?

If so, then you should consider applying for a WNC AgOptions grant. Support is provided to farmers diversifying or expanding their operations. Awards go to a variety of operations including, fruits and vegetables, livestock, nurseries, agri-tourism, beekeeping and value-added processing, etc.

How can the award be spent? Suitable expenses are those related to the production and marketing of diversified farm enterprises and agri-tourism endeavors. Examples include: seed, fertilizer, plants, amendments, packaging, fencing, tools, signage, specialized equipments, etc. Items that cannot be funded include: farmer labor, farm debt and expenses dated outside of the grant period.

How much is awarded? Amount of award can be $3,000, $6,000 or $9,000. Project budgets for $9,000 must be at least $27,000, not including farmer labor. Applicants who apply for $9,000 who are not awarded will be eligible for a $6,000 award.

Awards will be granted throughout an 18-county/unit area of WNC. Each county/unit will host at least one recipient in 2009 if one or more quality applications are submitted from each county/unit. Use of funds must be used as stated in the applicant’s proposal.

When are applications due? Proposals must be postmarked by January 8, 2010. Only one application per farm, please.

November 23, 2009 is the “Intent to Apply Deadline”. This is the date by which all applicants should contact their county Cooperative Extension agents to set up an appointment to discuss their projects. If this deadline is not met, the applicants will miss the opportunity of scoring additional points.

More detailed responses to these questions and others can be found on-line at wncagoptions.org or by calling the WNC AgOptions Project Manager at 828.649.2411 ext. 305
Blackberry and Raspberry Grower Crisis Communication Training

The Fresh Produce Safety Task Force (FPSTF) is conducting a workshop for Blackberry and Raspberry growers in North Carolina!

This workshop is an interactive program that will take you through a food safety outbreak involving raspberries or blackberries. They simulate how all the different agencies (CDC, FDA, CNN, etc) interject themselves into the incident and how quickly such a crisis evolves. The bottom line is: we need to be prepared for a crisis, it may not be food borne, but something will happen and we need to have a plan in place.

Dr. Gina Fernandez has planned for a group of blackberry and raspberry growers to go through the training on **November 16 at 10 am**. The workshop will take place in the Training Room in the Murdock Building, located at the new NC State University Research Campus in Kannapolis.

The room can fit up to 30 people, so let Dr. Fernandez know if you plan to be there. Contact Dr. Fernandez at gina_fernandez@ncsu.edu or 919.513.7416.

Debbie Hamrick, from Farm Bureau will also be there and will update us on Food Safety legislation that is proceeding through Congress at this time.

The workshop would last about 2.5 hrs. This will give everyone time to travel to Kannapolis and get back home that same day.

If you are a grower that would like a ride or to caravan, contact the Henderson County Extension office at 828.697.4891. We have room for a few to ride in our van!

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**Southeast Strawberry Expo, November 8-10, 2009, Research Triangle Park, N.C.**

There are some exciting opportunities in store for attendees of the Southeast Strawberry Expo, including educational sessions, workshops and an industry trade show at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park. Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour Vollmer Farm in Bunn, N.C., and several Raleigh sites such as the N.C. State Micropropagation Unit, the NCDA&CS Agronomics Lab and the N.C. State Farmers Market.

Hot topics for breakout sessions include: Fumigation Options, Insect & Disease Diagnosis & Management, Season Extension Technology, Cover Crops in Strawberries, Community Supported Agriculture, Managing the Farm Market, How to Have Sweet, Flavorful Berries, Farm Image Makeover, Using Email Messaging and Blogging, Row Covers, Adding Blueberries and Blackberries to your Farm, Double-cropping, Farming across Generations and Managing a Food Safety Outbreak.

A MIDAS training and certification will be offered by Arysta LifeScience.

Special events at the Expo this year include a Young Growers Breakfast, an Auction to raise funds for strawberry research and a Farm Promo Display and Contest. Plan to bring examples of your farm’s newsletters, mailings, email newsletters or messages, logo or other promo, for display and judging for prizes.

For more information, contact the N.C. Strawberry Association at info@ncstrawberry.com or visit [http://www.ncstrawberry.org/](http://www.ncstrawberry.org/)
Berry Supply Development Meeting with Naturipe Farms

Date /Time: Monday, November 16, 2009, 6:30pm

Location:
Binion’s Roadhouse
1565 Four Seasons Blvd
Hendersonville, NC

Naturipe Farms is one of the nation’s premier berry sales and marketing companies, serving valued customers across the United States and Canada.

Customers of Naturipe Farms have asked for eastern produced supplies of blackberries.

Topics of Discussion:
- Information about Naturipe Farms, the sales and marketing company
- The market need for blackberries
- Potential market for other berries
- How Naturipe Farms Grower Services engages growers to provide the market needs
- The essential elements of a ‘win-win’ relationship
- Opportunity for discussion

Presenters/attending from the Naturipe team:
- John Shelford, President of Naturipe Farms Grower Services
- Larry Ensfield, Director of Operations for MBG Marketing
- Sales/Marketing Representative (TBD) from Naturipe Farms
- Derrin Wheeler, Manager MBG Southeast Operations
- Steve Jordan, Assistant Manager MBG Southeast MBG

Please RSVP to jshelford@comcast.net or call 269.434.8090, no later than Thursday, November 12.

Keep Your Farm Workshop

You're invited to a free workshop where we will discuss updates on issues affecting farm and forest landowners. Topics of discussion will include tax information, insurance and financial options, forestry management plans, conservation easements, value added and new enterprises, and farm transition programs.

When?: November 12, 2009 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Where?: Weaverville Town Hall, Community Room, 30 S. Main Street  Weaverville, NC 28787

Commissioner David Gantt will discuss the Buncombe County Strategic plan and the goal to sustain farming livelihoods. Lunch will be provided.

On November 13, 2009, one on one consultations will be available at the same location.

To register, contact Erin Bonito at the Buncombe Co. Cooperative Extension office at 828.255.5522. Registration will be cut off at 100 people, so call soon!
Upcoming Events and Deadlines

**November 8**—Introduction to Beekeeping. 1-4 pm at the Folk Art Center. Contact Amanda Stone at 828.255.5522 or Amanda_stone@ncsu.edu for more details.

**November 8-10**—Southeast Strawberry Expo. See page 6 for more details.

**November 12**—Keep Your Farm Workshop. See page 7 for more details.

**November 16**—Blackberry growers meeting with Naturipe. See page 7 for more details.

**November 18**—Hops Informational Meeting. See page 4 for more details.

**November 19**—Farm Energy Efficiency Program with the NC Farm Bureau. See page 2 for details.

**November 23**—Intent to apply for WNC AgOptions deadline to meet with your county agent. See page 5 for details.


**December 9**—Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Workshop. See page 3 for details.


**January 8, 2010**—WNC AgOptions proposals must be postmarked by this date. See page 5 for more details.

**February 17-18, 2010**—Western NC Winter Vegetable Conference. Crowne Plaza and Resort, Asheville, NC. More details to come.

*Please contact us if you have event additions.*

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