

# Wamba Wanderings

**July 2017**

**Itawamba  
County**  
**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
**EXTENSION SERVICE**

- Romona O. Edge,  
County Coordinator,  
Extension Agent,  
FCS & 4-H
- Marie Rogers,  
Extension Agent,  
ANR & 4-H
- Penny Parmer,  
Office Associate



**Don't forget  
Farmer's Market  
Tuesdays & Fridays  
2-4 p.m.  
ICC Cypress Pavilion**

## Common Problems With Tomatoes

**Tomato Spotted Wilt**– This disease is carried to tomatoes by thrips. It can be recognized by small, dark, dead spots on leaflets, blighting and blackening of young shoots (tops), purple streaks on leaves, stems, and fruits. On older fruit yellow irregular spots will appear. Controlling insects is the only way to control this disease. Once plants are infected they should be removed from the garden.

**Blossom-end Rot**– this disease is caused by a calcium deficiency. Changes in soil moisture make this problem more severe. The disease starts on the blossom end of the fruit. The rot appears as a sunken spot and may cover half of the fruit. To control blossom-end rot, avoid applying too much nitrogen and apply mulch to help control soil moisture changes; soil PH should be 6.0 to 6.5. Several sprays are available to help control or correct this problem.

**Early Blight**– early blight first occurs on older leaves as small, brown spots. Concentric rings occur on the spots. A stem rot near the soil line may occur on the plant and dark, leathery, sunken spots may occur on the stem end of the fruit. Regular application of a fungicide is important for controlling this disease.

**Southern Blight**– Southern Blight causes wilting of the foliage and leaflets may turn yellow. There is a stem rot at the base of the plant, and a white webby fungus grows near the soil line. Control this disease by removing diseased plants from the garden and also taking the soil 5 inches deep and 5 inches from the stem of plants. Deep plowing a minimum of 6 inches is also recommended.

**Bacterial Wilt**– This is a very rapid wilt. The plant looks like hot water has been poured on it. When you cut the stem near the ground, the center looks dark. When you press the stem, you see a grayish, slimy discharge. When bacterial wilt occurs rotate to another site for 4 or 5 years. If a few plants are wilted, remove and destroy them.

**Fruit Cracking**– can be caused by periods of very fast growth during times of high temperatures and moisture supply, or by rains after a dry period. Not all cracking can be avoided, but you can lessen its severity by mulching and maintaining an even water supply.

### PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- ◆ Soil test (make sure what the plant needs is in the soil)
- ◆ Wrap stem of plant with foil (1-2 inches above and below the soil line)
- ◆ Plant resistant varieties when possible
- ◆ Apply mulch around plants
- ◆ Side dress with nitrogen when fruit is about the size of a quarter
- ◆ Maintain a weekly insect and disease program using a mixture of fungicide and insecticide.  
Example: Clorothalonil (Ortho Garden Disease Control and many others) and malathion

# Upcoming Events

Date	What	When	Where
7/6/17	Quick Bites: Art in Bloom	12 Noon	Itawamba County Extension Service
3rd Monday	Itawamba Master Gardener Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/10/17	Bee Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/10/17	Sewing for Kids	10:00 a.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/13/17	Quick Bites: Drought Tolerant Plants for Hot Dry Times	12 Noon	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/14-15/17	Union County Beef Show		Union County Fair Grounds
7/18/17	Cloverbuds	10:00 a.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/19/17	4-H Cooking Club	10:00 a.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
3rd Wednesday	Crafty Crafters	12 Noon	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/27/17	Quilting Day for Kids (8-12) space limited	10:00 –1:00	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/27/17	Quick Bites: Diseases of Backyard Fruits and Vegetables	12 Noon	Itawamba County Extension Service
7/28-29/17	State Shooting Sports Tournament		
7/29/17	United Way Resource Fair		
8/7/17	Deadline to order Market Animal Tags for Youth Shows		Itawamba County Extension Service
8/28/17	Deadline for Livestock Entries & Ownership for 4-H Youth Shows		Itawamba County Extension Service
8/14/17	4-H Craft Club	3:30 p.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
8/19/17	Mother/Daughter Tea	10:00 a.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
8/15/17	Cloverbuds	3:30 p.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
8/23/17	4-H Cooking Club	3:30 p.m.	Itawamba County Extension Service
9/7/17	Forestry Short Course	8:30	ICC
9/9/17	Miss Itawamba Pageant	TBA	TBA
9/12/17	Retinal Imaging for Show Animals	TBA	Verona
9/11/17	4-H Craft Club	3:30 pm	Itawamba County Extension Service
September	Cattlemen's Meeting	TBA	

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL US AT 662-862-3201**

***Visit the MSU-Itawamba Extension Office Facebook page, Itawamba County Times, and Area Promoter for more upcoming events.***

MSU Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs. Please contact our office at 662-862-3201 prior to a program or event to request reasonable accommodation.