



Hello, Spring!



Chris Nicholson

At Memorial Day weekend I still felt as though it was early spring. The older I become the faster time seems to move along. My planting isn't finished, my fields haven't been mowed, and I honestly don't know where this

spring season went. I hope your farm is in better shape than mine currently is.

Today I spent a couple of hours exchanging ideas with one of our members who operates one of the nicest operations in NJ. We talked about weed control, pruning, seed source, diseases, species, and lots of other topics which would probably bore anyone who doesn't grow trees. Every time I have the chance to "talk shop" with another member it seems to put a little new life into me and my farming operation. My point is, don't ever be afraid to pick up the phone and reach out to a fellow grower. You can always learn a few new tricks.

Our twilight meeting, summer meeting and tree contest have all been planned for this upcoming summer. Donna will forward all of the details as we near each event.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President. I have lost track of my time served. I will continue to stay on as long as it is still enjoyable and I am still wanted. It is as much fun today as the day that I started.

Pray for the occasional day of rain, and I will see you at one or all of our meetings.

– Chris

Interior Needles Casting in Concolor Fir

The fungal pathogen *Phyllosticta* spp. is causing the interior needles of Concolor fir to turn brown in landscapes and Christmas tree fields.

by Jill O'Donnell, Michigan State University Extension, and Jan Byrne, MSU Diagnostic Services
May 3, 2016

Phyllosticta has been documented on white and balsam firs and is associated with needle blight symptoms. A disease note published in 1997 documented it in Pennsylvania, and a more extensive paper published in 1989 documented it in Ontario (balsam fir) and Wisconsin (Concolor fir). More recently, this fungus is being detected on white fir with needlecast symptoms growing in Michigan.

Symptoms of this disease become noticeable during late summer and fall. Interior needles turn tan to brown usually in the lower portion of the tree, but remain attached. Initially, you may not see any fruiting bodies. Later, small, black fungal fruiting bodies, which contain spores, develop on the diseased needles. If you look closely, these fruiting bodies (pycnidia) are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. Spores are released from these structures and spread to nearby trees by rain.



Interior needles turn tan to brown usually in the lower portion of the tree. Photo by Jan Byrne, MSU Diagnostic Services.

Little information is available about factors that affect *Phyllosticta* development. As with other needlecast diseases we find in conifers, this disease appears most commonly on trees in areas with poor air movement or in areas where the foliage stays wet longer in the spring. These types of sites include larger trees, close spacing, shady areas, low spots or poor weed control.

continued on page 2

Save these
Dates!

June 15, 2017
Twilight Meeting
Pine Meadow Farm
New Egypt

October 7, 2017
Indian Summer Meeting
Perfect Christmas
Tree Farm
Phillipsburg

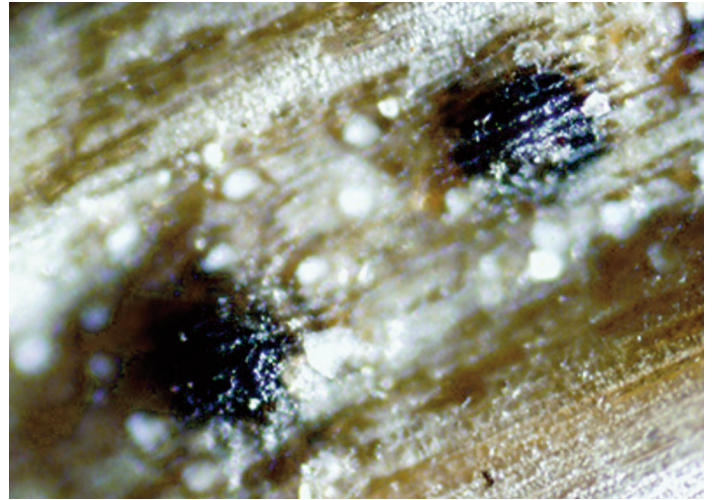
Interior Needles Casting *continued from page 1*

Recommendations for managing *Phyllosticta*

If a small number of trees are infected, Michigan State University Extension suggests removing those trees to reduce the potential reservoirs of inoculum.

Make modifications to your site that allow needles to dry and reduce the chance of infection. To help manage these needlecast diseases, consider better air drainage, greater planting distance between trees and better site selection.

Applications of mancozeb or chlorothalonil during shoot elongation may provide effective control of this disease. Remember, these are protectant fungicides and the benefits of treatments may not be evident for at least one to two years. Also, the new growth of Concolor fir is very succulent. When high-pressure sprayers are used or conditions do not favor rapid drying of the spray on the needles, applications of fungicides can result in damage. Damage symptoms can appear as needle yellowing and the development of necrotic spots on the needles.



Dark pycnidia obvious on needle.
Photo by Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood.org.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit www.msue.msu.edu.

Tree Assistance Program Information

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experience losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2017 must submit a Tree Assistance Program (TAP) application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent. TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned

when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

New Jersey Farm Service Agency

300 Clocktower Dr, Ste 202 Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
609-587-0104
www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

Please contact your local FSA office for questions specific to your operation or county.

Welcome New Members!

**Darrel Brown and
Billie Taylor-Brown**
Rylee's Tree Farm
Blairstown, Warren

Steve Hesser
Lawn and Golf Supply
Phoenixville, PA

Jack Otterbein
Otterbein Farm
Somerset, Somerset

Keith Pollock
Mays Landing, Atlantic

Welcome Returning Members!

Jeff Bush
Bush's Christmas Tree Farm and Nursery
Bridgeton, Cumberland

Paul and Linda Greffe
Paulin Christmas Tree Farm
Pittstown, Hunterdon



Published by the New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association

njchristmastrees.org

Contact Donna Cole, Exec. Secretary, at (908) 735-4658 or email execsecretary@njchristmastrees.org

DESIGNED AT ROWAN COLLEGE AT BURLINGTON COUNTY

Grower's Spotlight:

CHARLIE BROWN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

The Farm with the Windmill

By: Tim Dunne



Tim Dunne

Charlie Brown (yes that was really his name) began planting Douglas fir trees on his picturesque farm in Holland Township, Hunterdon County in the mid-1980s. Charlie Brown senior ran the farm for about 30 years until his passing in 2016. Randy Brown likes to tell how his father Charlie often said he was named Charlie Brown long before Charles Schultz ever came up with that popular cartoon character. Charlie's sons Charlie and Randy now run the 140 acre farm that has about 40 acres in Christmas trees.

The Browns grow mostly Douglas fir, although they recently have planted some Norway spruce, Canaan fir and some concolor fir to diversify the farm. Two Kathy Browns, Charlie's wife and Randy's wife, help with farm activities during the busy sales season in December. A few local younger folks are also hired to help during Decembers. The farm is well equipped with hay wagons for hay rides, a large Howey baler to bale trees, and a nice shop that sells wreaths and grave blankets in an 1850s bank barn.



Randy Brown in front of a field of young Douglas firs.



Smaller Douglas firs to be harvested soon in front of the 1850s farm house.

We toured the farm on a cool, early spring day and the wind never let up. Randy and Charlie's Great Aunt and Uncle thought it would be a good place to build a Dutch style wind mill, so they did and that monument

has stood above the farmstead since the 1960s. It is well known to local residents and everyone who has visited the farm over the years. Wind mill repairs are on Randy's to-do list but will have to wait until the Christmas tree operation is up and running smoothly again. They would like to include the wind mill in the future agri-



Nice farm sign at the farm shop.

tourism activities on the farm during the Christmas tree season.

Randy talked at length how he and his brother attend all the NJCTGA meetings they can to try to learn as

much as they can about tree farming. They had a good foundation from their father's experience but need to learn more with new challenges such as new fungal diseases, emerging insect pests and marketing in the internet age. Randy said "I love the ability to ask questions of knowledgeable speakers and dozens of other growers during meetings." There are no stupid questions, every question gets answered" and often "there is more than one way to skin a cat" Randy said. He attended the Pennsylvania as-sociation's summer meeting last July in northeastern PA to gather more information and remarked that he saw many NJ growers there.



1850s bank barn that serves as the farm's headquarters during December.

Asked about any advice he had for new growers, Randy said "Read as much as you can. There is a lot of information on line. Attend meetings and ask questions. Seek out other growers who will almost always give you good advice even though they are your competitors."



Field of larger Douglas fir ready for harvest.

Tim Dunne, owner of Woodsedge Farm, Belvidere, Warren County, visits farms throughout the state and writes the Grower's Spotlight.

Exotic Conifer Association Membership Information



*Abies veitchii (Veitch Fir)
Japan.*

*Photo courtesy of
www.exoticconifer.com.*

Are you interested in growing different types of Christmas trees but need more information on available species? The Exotic Conifer Association is an excellent source of information on potential tree species, seed and seedling availability and grower experience. The ECA publishes an informative newsletter several times a year and hosts meetings at farms growing a wide variety of unusual and exotic conifers. The membership dues are very reasonable and the ECA application is included in this newsletter if you are interested in joining.

Be sure to attend the NJCTGA "Indian Summer" meeting in October to see a wide variety of "Jersey Grown" exotic Christmas trees at the Perfect Christmas Tree Farm.

NJCTGA Officers

Chris Nicholson, President
Cnicho6345@aol.com
973-865-6362

Tim Dunne, Vice President
tandmdunne@emabarqmail.com
908-453-2818

Donna Cole, Executive Secretary
execsecretary@njchristmastrees.org
908-735-4658

NJCTGA Directors

Andrew Alpaugh
frstree@comcast.net
609-397-0615

John Curtis
curtistreefarm@gmail.com
908-387-1225

Anne Edwards
wedwards@rcn.com
609-758-7729

Jim Giamarese
giamarese@comcast.net
908-813-9904

Bill Griffin
griffin.nurseries@gmail.com
732-991-1268

Matt Martini
cherryvillefarms@earthlink.net
908-806-4580

Bryan Stimpson
bryan.stimpson@nj.usda.gov

Larry Toth
ltnatoth@comcast.net
609-758-5855

John Wyckoff
wyckoff@emabarqmail.com
908-489-2186

NJCTGA Newsletter Ad Sizes & Rates

FULL PAGE
7.75" wide x 9.875" high \$100

Half Page
7.75" wide x 4.863" high \$60

Quarter Page
3.795" wide x 4.863" high \$35

If possible, ads should be submitted in PDF format, in 4-color process.

Contact Executive Secretary
Donna Cole for additional details.

E C A

EXOTIC CONIFER ASSOCIATION



CONTACT

Matt Mongin
3006 Blue Green Drive
Beavercreek, OH 45431
e-mail: MonginMatt@gmail.com
tel: (937) 429-1717



Annual Membership 2017 Form

FARM NAME: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

WEBSITE LINK: _____

<p>MEMBER TYPE: (Check Box that Applies)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL \$30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FARM-FAMILY \$40</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUPPLIERS \$50 <i>Nurseries, Seed and Equipment Suppliers</i></p>	<p>OPTIONAL: (Check Box that Applies)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website Link - Member \$10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website Link - Non-Member \$20</p>
---	---

Send the completed form to: Matt Mongin, 3006 Blue Green Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45431

Winter Meeting Recap

The Annual Winter Meeting and Trade Show was held at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown, New Jersey on Saturday, January 28. Larry Downey of Downey Tree Company in Quebec, Canada gave an informative talk on growing Fraser fir and other true firs. Dr. Ann Gould spoke on diseases found in Christmas tree plantations including some of the "newer" ones making an appearance. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office gave updates on the State and Federal regulations. Three Stihl chainsaws and other door prizes were given out during the meeting along with ribbons for the tree contest winners.



The Alpaugh family proudly displays the ribbon and plaque for the 2016 Grand Champion Tree.



Members enjoyed the vendors and talking with other members during the meeting breaks.



Larry Downey spoke on shearing, cultural practices, pest control, and fertilization of true fir trees.

We're Ready to Go!





Your Farm Name
Here

We can fully customize your hats, fleece, jackets, hoodies with your "Farm's Logo"!

Our Dezines make lasting impressions!





DEZINE

Line

OVER 30 YEARS



We do it all...

- ...screenprinting in-house!
- ...embroidery in-house!
- ...set-ups for both processes in-house!

9am - 6pm M-F

973-989-1009

WWW.DEZINE.COM

1004 RT 46 East, Ledgewood, NJ 07852

Stop by and meet the people who design and produce your orders or we can service your entire order via e-mail and ship it!

Signs of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke



The summer tree shearing season is here! Risk factors for heat illness include: high temperature and/or humidity; no breeze or wind; direct sun exposure; strenuous physical labor; and heavy or waterproof clothing. Even though you want to get the trees sheared as fast as possible, you need to stay alert for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat exhaustion happens when the body has lost too much water and salt and usually causes excessive sweating. Heat stroke is a more serious problem related to excessive exposure to heat. When this happens, the body becomes unable to control its temperature. Body temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the person is unable to cool down. When heat stroke occurs, the body temperature can rise to 106 degrees Fahrenheit or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke is a very serious condition and can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given. Be safe and be aware of the following trouble signs and treatment for heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat Exhaustion Symptoms

- Heavy sweating
- Extreme weakness or fatigue
- Dizziness, confusion
- Nausea
- Clammy, moist skin
- Pale or flushed complexion
- Muscle cramps
- Slightly elevated body temperature
- Fast and shallow breathing

Heat Exhaustion Treatment

- Move to a cooler location
- Remove any tight or unnecessary clothing
- Take a cool shower, bath or sponge bath
- Drink water (avoid alcohol and caffeine)
- Apply cool, wet towels to the body

Heat Stroke Symptoms

- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
- Hallucinations
- Chills
- Throbbing headache
- High body temperature
- Confusion/dizziness
- Slurred speech

Heat Stroke Treatment

- Move person to a cool shaded area
- **Call 911 immediately – this is a medical emergency!**
- Reduce body temperature with cool towels, bath or fan
- Have person lie down and elevate their feet
- Sip cool water if possible

**Christmas Tree Pruning Services
Offered to Christmas Tree growers
of New Jersey**

Please Contact Michael Martin for information •
@ (518) 335 - 7512



GROWMARK FS, LLC

GROWING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Proud Supporter of the NJ Christmas Tree Growers Association

**For all your Seed, Fertilizer, Chemical,
and Custom Application needs**

*Your local FS Agronomy team will work with you from planting to
harvest to develop a program to support your individual operation.*

Visit us at:

GROWMARK FS, LLC	60 Lehigh Avenue	Bloomsbury, NJ	08804	908.479.4500	
GROWMARK FS, LLC	55 Silver Lake Road	Bridgeton, NJ	08302	856.455.7688	888.432.7939
GROWMARK FS, LLC	2545 Rt 206	Eastampton, NJ	08060	609.267.7054	800.966.4909
GROWMARK FS, LLC	425 Helms Avenue	Swedesboro, NJ	08085	856.467.2867	

www.growmarkfs.com