Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County

Landscape & Nursery News

Serving Monmouth County Commercial Clients

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Meet Diane Larson and John Neyhart

Two New Hires—Part-Time Horticultural Consultants

Diane Larson has worked as the **Horticulturist and Master Gardener Coordinator** for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County since 1998. Her prior work experience includes garden center management, landscape design, golf course horticulturist at Manasquan River Golf Club and horticulturist for Thompson and Morgan, a mail order seed company based in England. She has a **Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science** from Cook College, as well as 6 semesters in their Landscape Architecture program. In 2009 she completed the two year **NJ Agricultural Leadership Development Program**, as part of their Class XII. She is excited to branch out from homeowner to commercial contacts and issues, and looks forward to working with the landscape and nursery trade.

732-431-7260 X7262 732-431-7260 X 7277

L. John Neyhart has been a **Teacher of Horticulture** at the Monmouth County Career Center, part of the Monmouth **County Vocational School District** since 1985. He has a **BS Degree in Ornamental Horticulture** from Delaware Valley College. He comes with turfgrass experience having worked for a national lawncare company. He also has many years of landscape design and landscape maintenance experience working part time at several estates in Monmouth County. John served as an advisor for the **National Council for Agricultural Education** in the development of instructional material entitled **"Landscape, Lawn Care, and Golf Course Management."** He is currently serving as **President of the NJ Association of Agricultural Educators**.

Welcome to the first edition of the Monmouth County Commercial Nursery and Landscape email newsletter. Diane and John will be keeping you updated on timely horticultural information through these regular emails. They may be contacted at the above phone numbers and via email, larson@njaes.rutgers.edu and neyhart@njaes.rutgers.edu for further information on these topics or for any other horticultural inquiry.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your commercial colleagues. We invite them to join the mailing list for our future electronic editions by request to Diane larson@njaes.rutgers.edu. These newsletters will also be available on the Monmouth County Website.

The cool, wet spring has resulted in many reports of downy mildew on impatiens. We've received several calls from landscapers and growers questioning what to do about the white fungus found on the bottom of the impatiens leaves. Here's an article written by Rich Buckley, Laboratory Coordinator at the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, reprinted from the Plant & Pest Advisory's June 28 edition:

Downy mildew of impatiens was officially diagnosed in the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory for the first time this week. This disease, which is caused by the fungus *Plasmopara obducens*, is all-the buzz with the landscape, greenhouse, and nursery crew at this time because of its destructive potential. Impatiens downy mildew is first evident on new growth as curled, yellow leaves. As the disease progresses, white mycelial growth (downy fuzz) becomes evident on the undersides of the leaves. Rapid defoliation and plant death soon follows. Impatiens play an important role in

New Jersey landscapes as mass plantings in shady sites. Unfortunately, what beautifies the site also creates the perfect storm of conditions for the disease. High relative humidity and cool temperatures favor pathogen activity. Furthermore, the fungus spreads rapidly in overcrowded plantings through airborne spores that are easily dislodged and moved by splashing overhead irrigation and rain.

There is not much to do once the plants are infected. Rapid detection and excellent sanitation practices are essential to stop the spread of the disease. Remove and destroy the affected plant material. Do not turn the dead plants into the soil. In fact, it would be prudent to carefully bag up the diseased plants and send them to a landfill. Professionals can follow quickly with protective fungicide treatments. Be aware that these treatments can be expensive and do not provide much curative control. Fungicides are best used as preventive treatments.

The following materials are labeled for downy mildew control in impatiens for commercial applicators only:
Adorn (fluopicolide), Aliette (fosetyl-al), Heritage (azoxystrobin), Pageant (pyraclostrobin+boscalind), Protect (mancozeb), Segway (cyazofamid), Stature (dimethomorph), Subdue Maxx (mefenoxam), and Vital (potassium phosphite).

Researchers at Cornell University suggest making applications on 14-day intervals. Be sure to pick a different product each time and to use the product in a manner that is consistent with the manufacturer's label specifications. I would also suggest that if you yank out downy mildew infected plants, it might not be too practical to replace them with more impatiens. I think it might be time to find something else for those shady sites!

There are two important educational events for the green industry coming up this summer. First, the **Lawn, Landscape & Sports Turf Field Day and Trade Show** will be held on Wednesday, August 1st at the Adelphia Plant Science Facility, 594 Halls Mill Road, Freehold NJ. Registration & Trade Show opens at 7:30 am and field tours and equipment demonstrations will run from 9 am – 1 pm. Lunch will be provided from 1 - 2 pm and an optional pesticide recertification core session will be given from 2-2:30 pm. Pesticide recertification credits will be awarded for NJ, NY, CT, DE, MD and PA. To register on-line (or to print the registration form) and for additional information about the field days go to www.njturfgrass.org. **The early registration discount for both field days ends on July 13th.**

Secondly, the **Summer Plant Symposium** will be held on Tuesday, August 14th at Rutgers Gardens in New Brunswick. Presented by the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Plant Association, participants can choose several sessions, including a garden center tour, landscape design tour, and landscape industry classes which will also offer pesticide credits. To register online and for more information, go to http://summerplantsymposium.com/registration/.