



## SDN.15.May18

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Beautiful weather the middle of last week!! Yes, a bit nippy, but still better than those high-80s over the previous week(end). The rain did slow down field work, but there's corn "poppin' up all over" . . . and some soybeans, too! Of course, there were lots of tractors and planters/drills in the fields the end of last week, too.

This message from Pierce Paul, our "Wheat Pathologist," came through last Thursday morning: "After seemingly being behind throughout the month of April, the wheat crop in Ohio has 'changed gears' and is now heading out in some areas – do not be deceived by the fact that plants still look short in some fields. Heading in early-mid May is not uncommon for southern Ohio, but is early for northern counties. The forecast is for cool conditions over the next two days (60s and lower 70s), which could potentially slow down the progress of the crop, but not for long, warmer temperatures (80s) and rain are in the forecast for this weekend and early next week (May 18). Early-heading fields will likely reach anthesis (flowering) late next week. Scab and vomitoxin become our biggest concerns at this time of the wheat season. Keep your eyes on the weather and the scab forecasting (<http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>) and alert systems, and be prepared to apply a fungicide (Prosaro or Caramba at full label-recommended rates) at flowering."

Yes, I checked the website and, as of last Thursday, Ohio's risk for Fusarium Head Blight was "low." However, just like the weather, that can change "overnight"!!

Gardening is getting into full swing, also. With the warmer weather, it's been enticing to get outside and "do something"! When selecting plants (annuals or perennials) for the landscape, the first and most important consideration is to pick the right plant for the specific location where it will live. Sun exposure and temperatures will impact the odds your plants will survive and thrive.

Plants such as New Guinea impatiens prefer shade or partial sun. On the other hand, flowers such as lantana, garden verbena, petunias, geranium, and sweet alyssum are much more sun tolerant and will thrive in south or west-facing locations. Be sure to check the plant's label for information about heat tolerance and ideal location.

Another consideration is growth habit: How tall will it get? Will it spread, and if so, how far? Even though planting "far apart" now may make the garden look a bit sparse, allow space for the plants to "fill in" as they grow. Also, be sure lower-growing plants are not "hidden" behind those that grow "up"!

Other factors to consider include the way the plant blooms. Some plants will just continue to bloom, while others you need to deadhead, or remove the dead blooms, for more flowers to grow from underneath the faded flowers. That "deadheading" can add extra work . . .



If you have specific gardening questions, you can contact our Master Gardeners at our office every Monday and Thursday morning, 10a-1p: 937.498.7239; 810 Fair Rd., Sidney.

Well, I got the "Fuzzy Kids" back in the field to start their "managed intensive grazing" last week. I had run them through earlier, without the pasture sub-divisions, to take advantage of what was left overwinter. Now, with the rain, warmer weather, and a touch of fertilizer, those fields are growing well. I may have to do some more "barnyard grazing," especially if we have a dry summer, but that's OK. They know their boundaries and (so far!) respect the fence.

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