



PAWPAW PICKIN'S



State Chapter:
Ohio Pawpaw Growers
Association

Spring 2015

Volume 15, Issue 1

President's Patch *by - Ron*

This focus of this issue of Pawpaw Pickin's is on a couple of problems with pawpaws. The first is an unknown problem where the leaves are small, rolled up at the margins with a "warty" looking leaf blade. I have seen this problem for a couple of years. It seems to come and go, i.e., one year it appears and the next year the plant is healthy looking.

The next is actually several closely related problems that are usually seen as one: sunscald, southwest injury and bark splitting. There has been some new research that ad-

resses these issues and may be helpful to some. Not all NA pawpaw trees are susceptible to these problems but the potential is still there.

This year has been extremely wet, producing much growth on the NA pawpaw trees. The crop is moderate. It appears that most of the fruit is on the lower half of the tree. The fruit drop was light this year and my fruit dropped in late June. The newly planted trees and the grafted trees at the farm had a very high success rate even with the periods of hot weather. Phyllosticta is finally making its ugly appearance known. It is showing up mainly on the very new growth at the tips of the branches. The pawpaw leaves are really chewed up this year, especially the new growth, but I was never able to find any insects to blame for the damage.

Be sure to continue to share you success stories as well as your problems and concerns with the NA pawpaw. We are always looking for ideas about article of interest to our members. Pictures are always welcome.



The 17th Ohio Pawpaw Festival, September 11-12-13, 2015. Lake Snowden, Albany, OHIO.

Friday 4 pm—12 am

Sat. 10 am—12 am

Sun. 10 am—5 pm

Ohiopawpawfest.com

NAPGA & OPGA past newsletters are archived at
Ohio State University, Piketon, Ohio

<http://southcenters.osu.edu/horticulture/publications/newsletters/Ohio-pawpaw-growers-association-newsletters>

Mission Statement

NAPGA

is an organization of pawpaw enthusiasts, backyard and commercial pawpaw growers, small and large, dedicated to promoting the superior traits of the pawpaw plant and fruit, developing a pawpaw industry and marketing plan, preserving and studying the wild pawpaw genetics.

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Please check with Ron (Botrytis@fuse.net) regarding your membership status.

Green Acres????

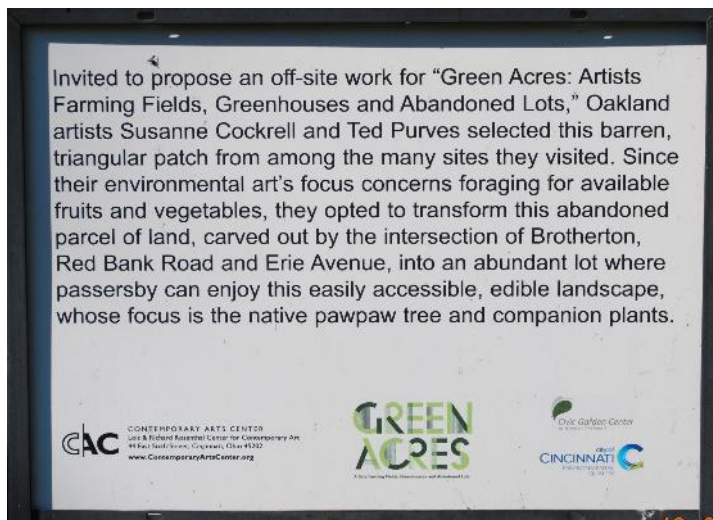
by Dr. Ron Powell

I usually don't give commentary about subjects in which I have no expertise. However, there comes a time when I must voice my opinion. I was contacted in 2012 by Susanne Cockrell, an environmental artist from California, who was to select a site in Cincinnati to plan and plant a "forage garden" with NA pawpaws. I was asked where they could purchase large grafted plants. I suggested Forest Keeling Nursery in Missouri. I was able to observe the site shortly after planting, fall 2012. The NA pawpaw were healthy and were 5 to 6 feet in height. Susanne and her companion were flown to Cincinnati several times to select and to develop the final site. Originally, the site was well mulched and all weeds and brush removed. Note that there is no parking available and the site can only be reached by foot. A plaque, pictured below, was



placed at the site.

This project started out as a positive idea and after planting, it looked really great. In fact, we need many more 'forage gardens' in our cities." The first two pictures show the planting from the front and rear. The NA pawpaw plants are properly spaced apart, healthy and well mulched. I even liked the original design!



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Green Acres cont.

The location of the small park is at the intersection of Brotherton Rd., Red Bank Rd., and Erie Ave. in Cincinnati, OH. This is a small triangular piece of land that had been neglected for a period of time. I visited the planting again in the summer of 2014 and I observed that many of the NA pawpaw plants could not even be seen! The plants that were "hiding" the NA pawpaw plants were called "companion" plants. It was a disaster to look at. I just don't know if it is a lack of funds, community support, or volunteer help to clean up the planting. The forage planting is in a highly desirable and visible location and is certainly a welcome addition to the community but I don't think that we deserve these unsightly results!



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Have you seen these problems?

Doug Albough has requested the NAPGA members to help him with some foliage issues that he is having with his NA pawpaws. Doug said that this problem was first observed on May 8 as small, yellow foliage and then the leaves began to curl.

Please let us know if you have observed this problem or you have any ideas as to what could be causing the problem. Send us some pictures if you observe either one of the problems.



I have also noticed some issues with a Wabash pawpaw last year at my farm and I have observed these symptoms at several other locations this year. The symptoms are somewhat different from the symptoms on Doug's pawpaws. The symptoms that I have observed this year are only found on the tips of one or more branches and not the entire tree. See page 5.

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Have you seen these problems? Cont.



Wabash NA pawpaw



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Sunscald, Southwest Injury & Bark Splitting

by Dr. Ron Powell

I recently observed (Summer 2015) that one of my grafted North American pawpaw trees had broken off. The tree was part of a Kentucky State University trial block planted in 2011. As you can see from the picture, the tree had flowered and set fruit this year. There are two possible causes of this type of injury on a thin barked



tree, such as the NA pawpaw. I have taken excerpts from two articles by Dr. Hannah Mathers but I would suggest that you read the full articles. I hope that this brief article and

the pictures help you to prevent these types of injuries to your NA pawpaw trees.

Dr. Hannah Mathers, a member of The Ohio University Extension Nursery Landscape & Nursery Team. In her first article ("Eight Types of Winter Injury," The Buckeye, pp. 8, 9, & 15, December 2003), she stated that there were eight types of winter injury. The first winter injury mentioned was sunscald or southwest (SW). Dr. Mathers states that, "this type of injury is common on the southwest exposures of thin barked trees. Sunny days below freezing temperatures result in the greatest damage. The south-



west side heats up, absorbing the heat of the sun. When the sun sets, or goes behind a cloud, there is a sudden freezing in the heated up tissue. Snow cover, resulting in the reflection off the snow surface, and more extensive heating on the southwest side often aggravates this rapid freezing and thawing." "Sunscald results in the death of the exposed bark.

The area subsequently dries out and dies, causing a large open wound on the southwest side of the tree. Years of repeated southwest injury will weaken the trunk of the tree significantly making it susceptible to breakage.



The second possible type of winter injury that can occur on thin barked trees is bark splitting. Bark splitting "results from very cold temperatures on sunny days and is often associated with southwest injury. A longitudinal crack occurs in the bark of the tree. It may also split the sapwood causing an area of the trunk to dry out and form an awl-shaped scar in the wood. Bark splitting develops under the same conditions as

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Sunscauld, Southwest Injury & Bark Splitting cont.



sunscauld and can be prevented in the same ways." Sometime growth cracks caused by the rapid summer expansion of the sapwood should not be confused with bark splitting. These small growth cracks will callus over and heal rapidly. However, these growth cracks may become points for subsequent bark splitting from cold.

In Dr. Mathers second article ("Nothing is Easy Anymore," The Buckeye, pp. 17, 18, 20, & 21, January 2006), she shares her insights that she

learned from severe bark splitting and scald damage from many Ohio nurseries that cold may not be the only causal factor or the only reason for bark splitting. Possible causal factors include the wet summer in 2004, high nitrogen fertilization, the warm fall of 2004 and the sudden cold in

the winter of 2004-05.

Other researchers (no citations listed) believe that cold and frost are "not" the causal agents. "The actual cause of the bark splitting was 'preset' by a wound such as the improper removal of a basal sprout or leaving a branch stub. Once started, the cracks may persist for the life of the tree because stress caused by many factors including frost leads to the "continuation" of the crack. These cracks can occur predominately on the South, Southeast and East sectors.

How do we prevent or limit the bark splitting and the sunscald or southwest injury. There are a number of things that can be done to limit or protect the NA pawpaw tree. The easiest prevention measure is to shade the southwest side of the main trunk and large branches. This can be accomplished by allowing the lower branches to remain on the tree, by erecting a shading barrier and by painting with 50 percent white latex paint to reflect the sun's rays.

In Dr. Mather's first article she recommended the use of tree guards but in the second article, she stated that "there also appears to be a strong relationship of increased splitting to the use of tree guards. The guards inhibit the cold acclimation process in the fall, if put on too early in the growing season, and resulted in an increased incidence of cold injury in the spring. The guards actually altered the microclimate of the bark in the protected region. Not only do the plastic guards reduce cold hardness, in the guarded region, but they also increase the moisture content in that region resulting in increased susceptibility to mechanical injury and thus splitting caused by ice formation under the guard."

Dr. Mather's states, in her second article, that "the removal of suckers and adventitious shoots, especially with herbicides may be reasons for the increased severity and frequency of bark splitting...We no longer recommend the practice of tree sucker removal with glyphosate containing products."



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NA Pawpaw Carb-free Crepes

Mix together:

1/2 cup pureed pawpaw pulp, divided

1 Large egg

Dash salt

Spray non-stick pan with oil

Melt a little butter in the pan
if desired for more flavor

Beat 1/3 cup pawpaw with
the egg until thoroughly
mixed.

Pour into pan and cook until
the edges are done.

If top is still liquid, lift edge
of crepe and let it run
under.

When done enough to flip,
cook the second side lightly.

Remove to plate and spoon the remaining pulp down
the center

Fold in thirds.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Great for breakfast or desert.

Makes 1 serving.

From Terry Powell's kitchen



NAPGA/OPGA Dues

Please check with Ron (Botrytis@fuse.net) regarding your dues status or be sure to read the reminder in your email correspondence. Your membership dues are now collected on your anniversary date.

Please renew your membership in NAPGA/OPGA to show your support. Your continued support is needed to further the education and the promotion of North American pawpaws.

Go to www.Ohiopawpaw.com, for a membership form.

Membership dues are: **\$20.00 — family membership**
 \$5.00 — student membership

Send dues to: **NAPGA / OPGA, Dr. Ron Powell**
 6549 Amelia Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241

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Pawpaw Pickin's is published bi-annually by the NAPGA/OPGA, organizations dedicated to advancing the education and knowledge of North American pawpaw culture, encouraging the planting of pawpaws, the management of native pawpaws, and perpetuating the utilization of all N. A. pawpaw products.

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