

**AG NOTES**  
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August 11, 2020

**FARMERS MARKET**

With thirteen vendors and a lot of good produce and baked goods, a big crowd of customers made a good market last week. If you're looking for a good selection of locally grown farm-fresh vegetables, or maybe a loaf of sourdough bread or fried pies (!), come to the market on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm (no early sales).

The market is at the Farmers Market Pavilion on Celebration Drive at the Celebration Grounds, and we're next to the big blue water tower.

**WHAT IS THIS?**



My daughter announced to me that she thought she had a nest of murder hornets. They've been in the news lately. I saw a couple of what she saw, and they were not the murder hornets. (They are in Washington State only as of now.)

I saw two big wasp-looking insects, about one and a half inches long, with yellow and black stripes. They looked like great big yellow jackets. These were out at night, and they had been attracted to a light at the corner of her house.

In the background I could hear cicadas singing, if that loud sound is singing. It's actually a mating alert that the cicadas, or jar flies as some call 'em, make this sound by vibrating structures on their bodies called tymbals.

How do these two relate? The big wasps are cicada killer wasps, and they feed on the cicadas. So, when you hear the cicadas, you'll see their natural predator searching for them. These wasps can sting if they are provoked, but they are mostly harmless and go about their searching and feeding.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?



I got a call about some cherry trees that had damaged and dead leaves. It looked like someone had shot them with bird shot or a shotgun shell. These trees are in their late teens, and most of them had damaged leaves.

The diagnosis is fungal shot hole disease caused by the fungus *Blumeriella jaapii*. This fungus overwinters in the leaf litter. Most ornamental cherry can tolerate this disease without treatment. It would take many cover sprays, once every ten to fourteen days, of a fungicide to prevent. To cover these sprays, it would take time and effort since they are mature.

However, the big issue here is the life span of the ornamental cherry trees. The normal range is 15-20 years, and these trees are in that end span. So decisions will have to be made on replacing the trees or trying to maintain them for a while longer.

## WHAT IS THIS?



I had pictures sent to me showing a nice small rounded tree in a landscape with a set of pods draping down all around it. One of the images had the pod open showing a nut inside. I had not seen it before and it was really interesting. The question was identification and was there any issues. I sent the images to the lab and got a quick response.

This one is called a bottle brush buckeye tree. That comes from the shape of the stem with the pods. It is interesting to see and can be a focal point in a setting, but there are some issues. This one is toxic, with the leaves and the nuts being very toxic. So, there are drawbacks.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?



More diagnosis of plant diseases came my way last week. The hot humid weather is perfect for many of the plant diseases, fungal/mold/bacteria types.

A new sodding of Zoysia grass had large patch, sometimes called brown patch or zoysia patch. In this case, the variety of zoysia is susceptible to this fungal disease. It can be treated by using a specific fungicide, and managing the grass growth by using minimal fertilize will keep the sod open and drier to help prevent the fungal growth and damage.

**AND THIS?**



Here is another tree that had some brown fungal structures on it. These were on a mulberry. The lab called them fungal conks (polypores). The indication was they responded to heart rot most likely. Branches have been removed. In this case there is no treatment. If isolated on a branch, the branch could be removed. Promptly remove dead branches.