

MIDDLE TN NURSERY EXTENSION

nursery e-news

Symptoms of Southern blight can progress rapidly. Within a few days, the apple tree in the middle wilted and died.

Photo: TSU
Factsheet ANR-PATH-02-2015



Sclerotia (small, round tan/white structures) on Delphinium.
Photo: Christa Carignan, Univ. of Maryland Extension

SOUTHERN BLIGHT

- Southern blight is caused by the fungus *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Infections in apple and pear trees are often severe; the fungus can infect 500+ plant species.
- It favors 80-95°F and wet, humid conditions.
- Disease symptoms start with wilting and flagging of leaves and immature shoots. Soon after, plants turn brown and die. Infected plants sometimes have dark, water-soaked or sunken cankers near the soil (crown).
- Initial infection occurs when the white, fungal mycelia meets the trunk in the soil and begins to break down the tissue. This leads to girdling of the plant (restricting the vascular system) and wilting.
- Look at the crown for tiny, spherical structures (sclerotia), which allow it to remain in the soil for several years until encountering a host plant to infect under ideal conditions.

- Because disease progression occurs so quickly, once a plant is seen wilting it cannot be saved and needs to be removed (bag and take care to not spread pieces of the fungus).

NURSERY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

- In case you didn't know, there's a 3-part series of info sheets on responsible and efficient practices for managing irrigation in nurseries.
- The series covers general water use (Part 1), strategies to increase irrigation efficiency (Part 2) and strategies to manage runoff (Part 3).
- The extension infosheets were made by Amy Fulcher (UT) and Tom Fernandez (Michigan State Univ.).

For more info, visit:

[Southern Blight Factsheet](#)



[Spanish Version](#)



Part 1



Part 2



Part 3



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TNGRO - OCT. 23 & 24

Schedule

- October 22nd: Trade Show Exhibitor
Move-in/ Setup 8:00am - 4:00pm
- October 23rd
 - Trade Show: 9:00am - 5:00pm
 - Education Seminars: 9:30am - 4:30pm
 - Annual Awards Banquet & Business Meeting: 5:00pm
- October 24th
 - Trade Show: 9:00am - 2:00pm
 - Move out 2:00pm - 5:00pm



TNGRO site



SCHEDULE



9:30AM -
10:30AM

Plant Health

By Dr. Aaron J. Palmateer

10:45AM -
11:45AM

Scouting Smarter: Early Pest Detection and Identification

By Suzanne Wainwright, Buglady Consulting

1:00PM -
2:00PM

VSD Research Updates

By Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel

2:15PM -
3:15PM

Biological Control of Plant Diseases and Biopesticides

By Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel

3:30PM -
4:30PM

J1 Visa Program

By Hunter Alston

EARN 4 PESTICIDE CREDITS

Registration \$30
Includes access to all sessions
and trade show floor

<https://tnla.com/TNGRO>

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATIONS TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2026

- Be sure to earn the required points before your pesticide certification expires
- You can now earn your CEUs at any pace, as long as it is before the expiration date
- Email: Pesticides.CEU@tn.gov



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