

New Bulletins Give Helpful Tips for Pest and Weed Management in Christmas Trees, Landscape Plants

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EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Christmas tree growers, homeowners, and nursery, landscape and lawn care professionals can find useful information about identifying diseases, pests and weeds in their Christmas trees and landscape plants in three new pocket guides from Michigan State University (MSU) Extension.

“Managing a crop is like going to the doctor’s office,” said Jan Byrne, MSU plant pathologist. “A doctor determines the problem before prescribing medication, just as growers need to diagnose the problems in their plants to most efficiently control pests and weeds. These new guides will help them develop the best prescription for healthy plants.”

“An IPM Pocket Guide for Weed Identification in Christmas Trees” (E2975, \$18) and “An IPM Pocket Guide for Weed Identification in Nurseries and Landscapes” (E2982, \$19) provide photos of leaves, stems, flowers and fruits of common weeds, and descriptions of their life cycles and reproduction methods to aid in identification of weeds in Christmas tree plantings, nurseries and landscapes. Because pesticides are continually being reformulated, approved and taken off the market, the guides do not give specific pesticide recommendations.

“Michigan is one of the top Christmas tree-producing states,” said MSU weed scientist and pocket guide author Steven Gower. “We wanted to give growers the tools they needed to grow the best conifers in the Midwest.”

“A Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Herbaceous Perennials” (E2981, \$14) was written by Byrne and Kansas State University entomologist Raymond Cloyd. It provides integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to help professional growers and homeowners identify and manage pests and diseases in herbaceous perennials, plants that have leaves or stems that die at the end of the growing season and regrow from the roots the next year.

After a grower identifies a pest, disease or weed, the flipbooks can help him/her select the best approach for action, such as sanitation, pesticide application or site management.

To purchase the publications, contact the MSU Bulletin Office by calling 517-353-6740 or visiting <http://www.emdc.msue.msu.edu/>. Discounts are available if bulletins are purchased for use with MSU Extension programming.

Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs), Michigan's plant agriculture initiative at MSU, provided funding for Gower and Byrne's publications.

Founded in 1997, Project GREEN is a cooperative effort between plant-based commodities and business together with the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to advance Michigan's economy through its plant-based agriculture. Its mission is to develop research and educational programs in response to industry needs, ensure and improve food safety, and protect and preserve the quality of the environment. To learn more about Michigan's plant agriculture initiative at MSU, visit www.green.msu.edu.

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