



Field Notes for The Week Of

8-29-2022

Steps To Learning Your Trees

Please slow down! That is what I wish time would do these days, it is hard to believe September is here and that means fall harvest, cooler weather, and the holidays are just around the corner. Summer is winding down and there are definite signs that the autumn season is on its way. As I conducted my field scouting this week, I have some major positives and some concerns as the growing season winds down. I will begin with good news. My fall armyworm traps have been coming up with very little numbers, so it looks like a repeat of a fall armyworm invasion like we had last August is slim. The bad news is my stink bug traps have been coming up very full with the brown stink bug species. The brown stink bug is one of the most common stink bugs found in Ohio and they can be a threat to many different crops, from apples to soybeans. They are not picky eaters! Weeds continue to be a big concern from morning glory veins in corn to palmer amaranth and water hemp in soybeans. Crop fields are getting very wooly. Sudden death continues to progress in the soybean crop, but the corn diseases continue to be low. Third cutting Alfalfa hay had been more less completed, and some fourth cutting will begin soon. Pastures continue to do quite well and many of the cool season forages are breaking their summer dormancy as the days get shorter. Harvest of summer annual forages such as Sudan grass, Teff, and Pearl Millet continues, and some are harvesting for a second time. Summer Annual forage harvest was one of many subjects discussed at this week Beef and Forage field night at the Jackson Research Station. Another field event I attended was a Tree Identification course held at Kim and David Baker's Quiver Heart Preserve. This was a great learning opportunity, and I was able to meet many different people from Cincinnati to Northwest Ohio. After the lessons I thought it would be good to share some of the knowledge that I gained that might be helpful to you and your future endeavors.

Step #1 Learn your environment- Different geographical locations, soil types, and climate make a big difference in what tree species you will find growing in your woodlot.

Step #2- Don't depend on just fruits or nuts to identify- The type of fruit or nut a tree produces can be helpful but also learn leaf types and bark differences.

Step #3-Leaf Identification- Tree leaves can be classified as simple or compound, simple leaves have a single blade leaf while compound have two or more leaflets. Veins of the leaf can be parallel, palmate, or pinnate.

Step #4-Branching- Branches can be opposite, alternate, or whorled.

Step #5-Consult a specialist- there are many tree identification books available and always reach out to your local forester or consulting forester for help.

