

Do not bother removing lichens from landscape

By Dr. Gary R. Bachman
MSU Extension Service

Spring has sprung, at least in my Ocean Springs landscape, and gardeners once again are venturing out and taking an inventory of plant damage from this winter's cold. Performing this yearly garden task is easier when many plants haven't started their new growth yet.

Every spring, I get quite a few calls about trees and shrubs in decline and requests for advice on corrective actions. The one thing most of these calls have in common is the presence of a gray-green mold growing on the trunk and branches. Callers assume the gray-green stuff is responsible for the problems a tree or shrub is having, and they want to know what can be sprayed to take care of the "problem."

The gray-green, moldy-looking material is actually an organism called a lichen. Lichen is an unlikely combination of fungi and algae living in a symbiotic relationship on the plant's bark. Algae supply food via photosynthesis, and fungi gather water and other needed nutrients. Lichens are very interesting organisms that are found throughout the world.

There's always lichen on tree trunks. Lichens use trees and shrubs only for support.

When woody trees and

shrubs are under some kind of stress, many of them begin to struggle. Most of these stresses are abiotic and environmental, such as drought or excessive heat. When the plants struggle, their canopies tend to thin and open up, allowing more light into the interior of the canopy.

Lichens begin to grow as they start receiving more light. As trees and shrubs continue to decline, the lichen becomes more noticeable, giving the illusion that it caused the problem. As a result, homeowners think lichen is responsible for the tree and shrub decline. In fact, lichen grows on any hard surface outdoors, from wooden fences to rocks and even birdhouses.

There are a few common

types of lichens. Some are spreading and have a flattened, crusty appearance. Another lichen spreads across branches and develops wavy folds that resemble a crumpled sheet. Some resemble highly branched balls of fuzzy stuff with projections going out in all directions. Despite the varied appearances, they are all lichens.

The combination of moisture and increasing temperatures creates the perfect environment for lichen growth. It's interesting that, after a rain, the lichen can appear to actually bloom. Small, round structures appear and produce spores.

So, how can the home gardener control lichen growth? There really isn't any need to remove them. Lichens are naturally occurring organisms that opportunistically increase their growth as a



The gray-green, moldy-looking material found on plants and trees is called lichen.

(Photo by MSU Extension Service/Gary Bachman)

26th February

ACROSS

1 Fanon

5 How-to book

9 Like Stein's generation

13 Lhasa ___ (dog breed)

17 TV's answer man

18 Over, in Österreich

19 Sweet sandwich

20 Bacteriologist

21 Jonas

22 Diva Te Kanawa

23 Fabled exterminator

25 "Things are seldom what they ___"

26 Those: Sp.

27 Place Lot left

28 Psychologist

29 Preps for a photo, as a model

31 Landlord

33 Author Norman Vincent

36 Den piece, often

40 Skier's transport

43 Former Peruvians

45 Skywalker Ranch owner

46 Gasoline rating

48 Bug-eyed French auto

50 Diminutive suffix

51 Giotto's creations

52 "___ Without Rain" (Enya)

53 Hard work

55 Piedmont capital

57 Dubbed one: abbr.

58 Thought: prefix

59 Curare's kin

60 Creed

63 Japanese city

64 Midwest export

65 Norton and Howard

69 Male falcon: var.

71 Empty talk, slangily

73 English school-

boy

75 Sounds of a water balloon battle

76 Big wheel at the firehouse

78 Smelter's dross

79 Hebrew lyre

80 Endure

82 Bully's prey

83 Property transferor

86 Poet Jones (Amiri Baraka)

88 By: Sp.

90 Filthy ___ (money, pejoratively)

92 Mme.'s daughter

93 King Tut's was found in 1922

97 Miller's warm-up garb

99 Belgian-French river

100 ___ Hassan

101 Gifts to mendicants

102 Allowance for evaporation

103 Some August babies

104 Swedish diva

105 Jenny

106 Police pressure, slangily

108 Like Southern California's climate

107 Feudal worker

108 Authorizes

DOWN

1 Flivvers

2 Sunscreen ingredient

3 First name in cartoon skunks

4 Like an A+ paper

5 Peerage members

6 Sacred birds of Egypt

7 Hairspray choice

8 Cubist artist Juan

9 Cuts back a tree

10 Baltimore team

11 Like some rye

12 Hubbubs

13 Faulkner's "___ Lay Dying" ___

14 Reading material

15 Northern transport

16 Gumbo pod

24 Evening hrs.

30 Wine: prefix

32 Ballplayer Mel et al.

33 Type measure

34 Town NNW of Oklahoma City

35 Court minutes

37 Soldiers' vacations

38 Rickenbacker, e.g.

39 View from Gotland

41 Soon

42 Unwind

44 Descendants of Shem

46 Accustoms to

47 Tenth of a millennium: abbr.

49 Of a knob

51 "___ Jacques"

54 Suffix of employment

56 First beagle to win Best in Show

60 "___ Gift" (W.C. Fields film)

61 Uses a straw

62 Tearjerker

63 Eight: prefix

65 Self-appointed information source

66 Michael Collins's homeland

67 "Vanity Fair" director Mira

68 Arrogant summons

70 Steak-eater's specification

72 River islet

74 Eight: prefix

76 lves's colleague

77 Colts' siblings

80 Self-assured

81 Wrestling hold

84 Benevolent brother

85 Uses Pledge

87 Designer Tracy

88 Memphis god

89 Heraldry band

91 Major ender

92 ___ poblano

94 "Alice's Restaurant" cop

95 ___-Saint-Michel

96 Spring openings?

98 Chicago's zone: abbr.

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

Some of my most vivid memories come from the days of being on the lake. I can remember catching stripe bass as fast as I could cast but I can also remember being scared to death because I had not left early enough to beat the lightning storm. It seems we always think there's enough time for one more cast. As I got older I began to value my life more. Now if there's a storm

tree canopy starts to decline. The very best solution is keeping landscape plants in optimum condition by following recommended watering, fertilization and other management practices.

A healthy and well growing plant will have a canopy that discourages lichen growth. Light pruning of damaged branches encourages new branch growth, which, in turn, helps to establish a denser canopy.

Just as a piece of metal garden art will mature and gain an aged patina, landscape plants gain a touch of patina when lichens begin to grow. And remember that lichens grow on hard surfaces outdoors. I've never heard anyone worried about lichen damaging a rock.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Rev. Cleaster Randle passed recently. He was funeralized Saturday, February 17. Rev. Randle pastored several churches prior to his death. He also sang with the Friendly Echos When they were a regular singing group. Please uplift his wife, Evangelist Bea Randle in prayer.

Ms. Joyce Epps passed recently. I do not have any information on her death.

Mrs. Eula McGee passed on February 14. She was funeralized and buried at old Pilgrim Rest on Sunday, February 18.

The Holmes County Volunteer Home Makers Club gave a quilt to a lady that lost

within a hundred miles, I leave. There's just something about holding a graphite rod in my hand in the middle of a lake that doesn't sit well with me. Most of my memories, however, are good. They include days on a bass boat, a pontoon, and even wading. What all of them have in common is that the greatest moments were shared with a friend. It was with these friends that I learned to eat potted meat, Vienna Sausage and Beanie Weenies. This is stuff we never eat any other time. I have learned, if you're fishing with a friend, it's ok to hold a bologna sandwich with the same hand that just lipped that big bass. (In case you didn't know, there are no germs on the lake.) Yes, friends are what I like about fishing. I don't have to be anything but who and what I am.

All of my life I have heard about the characteristics of

God. He has many titles that give evidence of those characteristics. He is known primarily as father. He is called man's deliverer, sustainer, provider, and protector. All of these have special significance for special times in each of our lives. When I'm scared I need him to be my protector. When I'm broke I need him to be my provider. But of all the titles and characteristics of God, my favorite is that he is a friend and not only a friend but a friend to anyone who wants him to be.

When God became flesh through the person of Jesus, he proved this unique desire. Of Jesus, it was written, "He is a friend of sinners." Wow! Not just a friend, but a friend to those who don't measure up to the standards of perfection. Which is me! Which is you! Which is all of us.

I hope one of the pictures you have of God is a friend. If it's not, you're going to miss out on a lot of good times and good memories being with someone who accepts you for who you are.

N.A.

open group meetings every Friday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at

New Roads Counseling

114½ Spring Street, Lexington, 662-230-2682

Hallie Murtagh
Bailey Rutledge
May 25

Anna Weems
Reid Sumrall
June 2

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

HOLMES COUNTY

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AUCTION SALE DAY:
Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

#4 Stanley Randle

#7 Lillian Thurmond

#11 Mallory Clinic

#12 Ankela Stewart

#16 Tracy Chambers

#21 Aggie Genous

#24 Patricia Thurmond

#27 Rosa Rena Dixon

#45 David Powell

#56 Steve Gray

#63 Brian Porter

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May 25, 2018

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