

Belfast Garden Club

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For Immediate Release:

Preventing and Addressing Plant Diseases in the Garden

With Caleb Goossen
Feb. 15, Noon to 1 p.m. on Zoom

Belfast Garden Club's Feb. 15 speaker series features MOFGA's Crop Specialist, Caleb Goossen, speaking on preventing plant disease in the garden. The presentation will be available through Zoom from noon to 1 p.m.

Goossen said his presentation will focus on understanding the conditions which make plants in a home garden susceptible to disease and what to do to prevent these conditions from taking hold. Starting with strategies used to minimize the presence of disease from the outset, Goossen will talk on the disease triangle theory comprising of a conducive environment, a susceptible host, and a pathogen.

"We will look at ways a home gardener can remove one of these elements," from the equation, he said, and also talk about issues "beyond our control."

Despite our best efforts, he said, sometimes diseases show up anyway, during particularly challenging growing seasons. Goossen will talk about what can be done when diseases emerge and discuss some of the most common diseases found in vegetable gardens in Maine.

Goossen has a bachelor's degree in plant biology and sustainable agriculture from Hampshire College and he recently completed his Ph.D. from the University of Vermont, where he studied the fatty acid content of storage crops. He farmed organic vegetables in Vermont for nine years before graduate school. He also has experience with organic heirloom seed production and organic orchard maintenance on farms in New Zealand.

All Belfast Garden Club programs presented on Zoom are hosted by the Belfast Free Library. The Garden Club is grateful for their support and technical expertise in bringing these important events to the community. To register, visit BelfastGardenClub.org.



Caption:

Tomato late blight is a water mold favoring cool, damp weather conditions. It could be introduced by infected transplants shipped from other regions and spread by airborne spores.