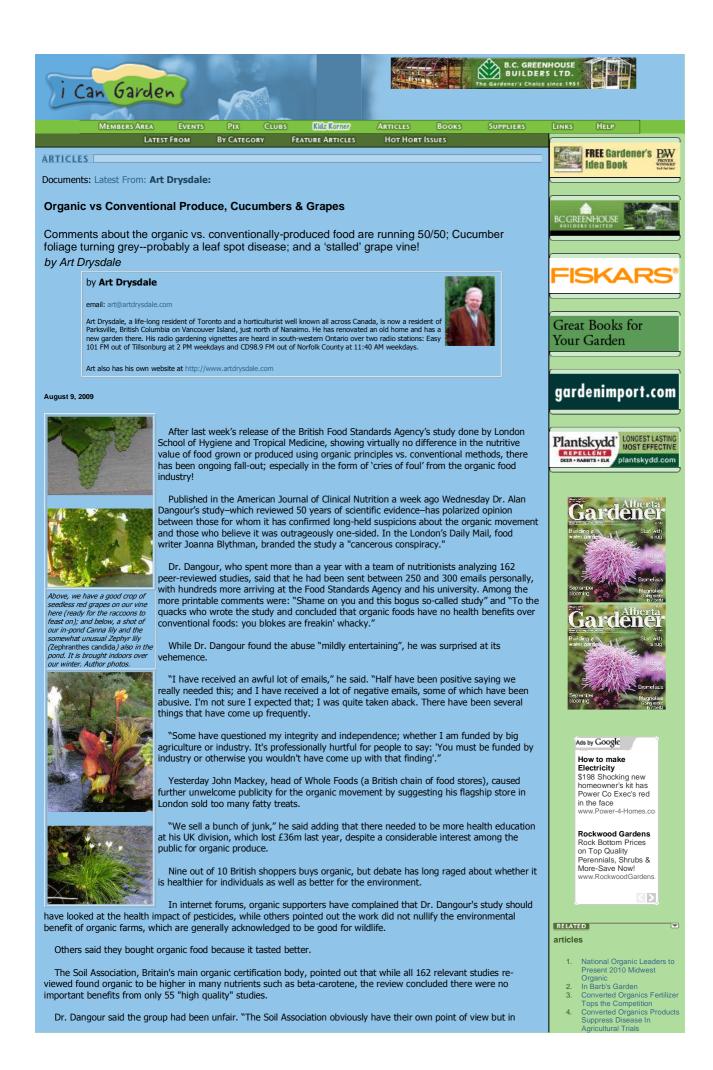
iCanGarden.com Page 1 of 2



iCanGarden.com Page 2 of 2

certain circumstances the way they tried to make their point has not been entirely appropriate," he said.

"If you pull random numbers from the report and claim that they are significant, that is not helpful."

Well, enough already on that topic! There are a couple of letters left over this week, so I'll deal with those.

Brian, of totally unknown location, wrote as follows: "I am having a problem with my cucumber plants this year. The leaves are turning yellow in spots and then turning grey and then the leaves die off. Is there anything I can do to save the rest of my plants or do I have to give up for this year. Your help would be much appreciated."

It sounds to me that you have a disease organism present--either powdery mildew, or much more likely a leaf spot (Alternaria sp.). The only real control for leaf spot is a copper fungicide such as copper sulphate, copper oxychloride or copper hydroxide. Various versions of these products (including the old stand-by Bordeaux mixture [a mix of cop-per sulphate and hydrated lime in water]) are available from good garden centres.

You may well encounter suggestions of applying the copper product you choose with a "spreader/sticker". A common dish detergent is often used. I would ignore that advice, and just use the copper product, mixed (and kept constantly agitated as it is applied) as recommended on the label.

The leaf spot diseases are particularly bad when rainy weather is experienced, such as has been the case in the eastern part of North America this spring and summer. It will also be important not to compost any part of the plants' foliage, nor to allow them to remain on the ground over the winter. If it is not possible to burn the old vines, then be sure to dispose of them in your household garbage.

The second question came from Tom C. Batty in the Victoria, B.C. area: "We planted a grapevine at our home in Sooke B.C. in the fall last year; it took off pretty good in the spring {about 4 feet} but then came to an abrupt stop about a couple of months ago. Any ideas? Thank you for your time.

I think I probably need more background information on the grape vines, and the area in which you have planted our grape vine has continued its growth, and even now we are trimming it back constantly. In what type of soil are



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