UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TPM/IPM Weekly Report

for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

Commercial Horticulture **May 6, 2022**

In This Issue...

IPMnet
Integrated Pest Management for Commercial Horticulture

extension.umd.edu/ipm

If you work for a commercial horticultural business in the area, you can report insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems **(include location and insect stage)** found in the landscape or nursery to sgill@umd.edu

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Disease Information: Karen Rane (Plant Pathologist) and David Clement (Extension Specialist)
Weed of the Week: Chuck Schuster (Retired Extension Educator) and Kelly Nichols (Extension Educator, Montgomery County)
Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)
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Andromeda Lace Bug

By: Stanton Gill

Andromeda lace bug started hatching at 301 degree days. The andromeda lace bug, *Sephanitis takeyai,* is a common pest on andromeda (pieris) plants and it can cause quite a bit of damage. Andromedas have been in full flower for the last two weeks. Now, new growth is emerging and the lace bugs nymphs are exploring and piercing the new foliage. Systemics such as Mainspring or Acelepryn can be used for control. Horticultural oil can be used if you direct the spray to the underside of the foliage.

When you see stippling damage on Andromeda (pieris), look on the underside of the foliage for lace bugs.

Ups and Downs of Spring 2022

By: Stanton Gill

The last three springs have been cool and wet. In 2022, it has not been so much wet (with the exception of today and the next 3 days), as it is up in temperature for 1 or 2 days then the temperature come crashing down. This pattern has made ambrosia beetle emergence a very late event. We had some activity two weeks ago, but then the cool weather came in and the flight drop to practically nothing. This week, we put out a special alert on Tuesday as we started to see an increase in flight activity as the weather moved into warmer conditions.

Recent cold weather has damaged plants including tuliptree (left, below) and *Platanus* trees (above) Photos: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Frost/freeze damage on *Cladrastis kentukea* in Taneytown from the April 28 cold temperatures Photo: Mark Dougherty, Chapel Valley Landscape Company

Degree Days and Bug Activity

By: Stanton Gill

We had an inquiry about degree days and boxwood leafminer activity. Degree day reports do vary from state to state and are, at best, a general predictor. Years ago, I challenged Dan Herms that The Ohio State University degree days and insect emergence was off from Maryland data. He reasoned that this should be calculated for each state. We have used degree day recorders in individual landscapes and found it varies even within an individual landscape and where on the tree or shrub you record data. You can find microclimates in

a single landscape with a fair amount of variance. Nancy Harding, Faculty Specialist in The Shrewsbury Lab, and Suzanne Klick, Ag Tech Lead, correlate the reported emergence data in Maryland over multiple years, on an ongoing basis. They use 50 °F as the base line. Degree days gets you in the general ball park of when to watch for insect emergence. Realize with the variance with location and shading within an individual landscape. By taking the average over several years, it helps us get closer and closer.

American Holly

By: Stanton Gill

American holly foliage has a life cycle of 2 – 3 years, then older foliage gets spotty and drops in May. Many American hollies started this defoliation cycle in the last week and are starting to look pretty unattractive at this time of year. Don't worry, new foliage quickly replaces these dropping leaves.

The yellow leaves on American hollies will drop and plants will produce new growth

Spirea Aphids

By: Stanton Gill

Spirea aphids usually hatch around 320 degree days, which many parts of the state reached this week. This aphid does a lot of noticeable damage to spirea at this time of year, but the plant usually grows out of the damage by mid-summer.

Spirea aphids cause damage early in the season. Look for predators such as lady beetles feeding on these aphids.

Woolly Apple Aphid, *Eriosoma lanigerum*

By: Nancy Harding and Paula Shrewsbury

On Sunday May 1 in Bowie, I noticed several leaves on my American elm, *Ulmus americana*, were curled, twisted, and stunted (see image). The leaf gall is caused by the aphids feeding on the sap of the newly expanding leaves. Unraveling the deformed leaves revealed many woolly aphids tucked inside the galled leaf and a sticky white cottony mass (honeydew and insect wax). The accumulated degree days in Bowie on May 1 was 255 DD.

The woolly apple aphid is native to North America. In areas where American elm occurs, elm is the overwintering host, and rosaceous plants are the summer (alternate) hosts. In the spring, after egg hatch and after a few generations occur, winged forms are produced that disperse to rosaceous plants (i.e. apple, crabapple, or mountain ash) where it feeds below ground on the roots and trunk or around wounds on the trunk. Multiple generations are present on the summer host. In early fall, winged forms return to the elm and mating occurs among sexual forms. Each female lays one egg and dies.

There are several common predators that can be found feeding on aphids: lacewing larvae, lady beetles, and syrphid fly larvae. In addition, there is a native parasitic wasp (*Aphelinus mali*) and a predatory plant bug (Miridae), *Deraeocoris aphidiphagus*, which can be commonly found in the curled elm leaves.

If control is warranted, horticultural oil and insecticidal soap can be used which have a reduced impact on beneficial insects if they are present.

Woolly apple aphids cause galls on elm leaves
Photo: Nancy Harding, UMD

Look for predators feeding on woolly aphids on elms, (photo), hawthorns, and other trees
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Viburnum Aphids

Jacob Winn, Bartlett Tree Experts, reported aphids on viburnum this week. He found cast skins and an alate (winged) stage on foliage. Low risk materials like oil or soap can be directed onto the foliage for control.

Cast skins from the viburnum aphids are present (left photo) and aphids, including a winged form (an alate) are feeding on the viburnum leaf (right photo)
Photo: Jacob Winn, Bartlett Tree Experts

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

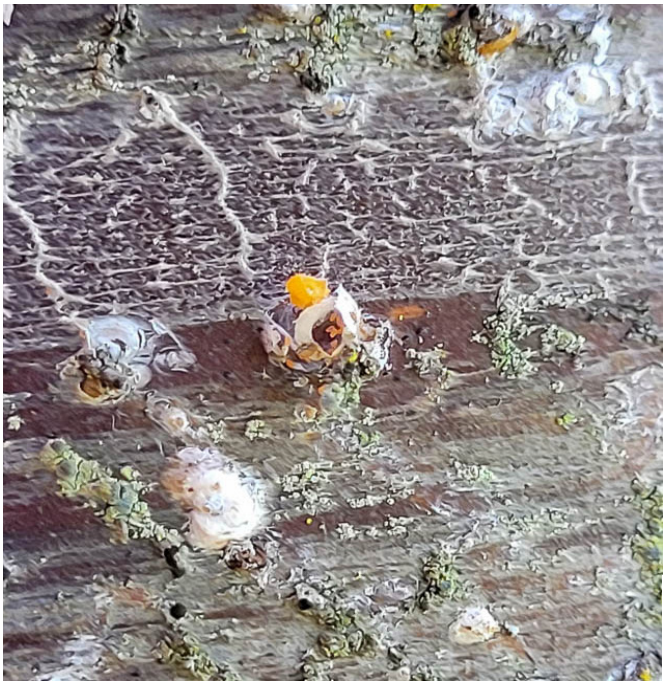
Jim McWilliams, Maxalea, Inc., found hemlock woolly adelgids in Baltimore County this week. Spray trees with 2-3% horticultural oil to target just hatched or newly settled crawlers.

Look for the white wax produced by hemlock woolly adelgids
Photo: Jim McWilliams, Maxalea, Inc.

Scale Insects

We are receiving reports of scale infestations this week. Crawler periods for these scales vary, so if you are doing scouting, monitor plants closely for the crawler periods.

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding the following scale insects this week:



White prunicola scale on various *Prunus* species were eggs under covers. Start looking for hatched crawlers now.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Lecanium scale on *Quercus phellos*. Look for crawlers at the end of May into June.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Elongate Hemlock Scale

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, reports that elongate hemlock scale just started to hatch out this week in Laytonsville. This scale is a pest of eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, and Carolina hemlock, *T. caroliniana*, in the Eastern United States. This scale also infests cedars, pines, yews and spruces. Feeding causes foliar chlorosis, needle drop, and plant dieback. Elongate hemlock scale completes two generations each year in Maryland. Its life stages are broadly overlapping, so yellow crawlers can be found throughout the spring and summer.
Control: Distance can be applied to the crawlers.

Look for crawlers of elongate hemlock scale
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Cottony Camellia/Taxus Scale

Jason Hipp, Deeply Rooted Tree Care, found overwintering females of cottony camellia/taxus scale on hollies in Bethesda this week. Also in Bethesda, Paul Wolfe, Integrated Plant Care, is starting to see females producing the white egg sacs. Over the next few weeks, look for the females producing the white, waxy egg sacs. Crawlers hatch in this area in late May/early June. Cottony camellia/Taxus scale tends to be limited to camellia, Taxus, Chinese holly, and jasmine, although it can infest English ivy, euonymus, hydrangea, maple, mulberry, pittosporum, and rhododendron.

Several control options are available including use of Distance or Talus. Systemic insecticides such as Altus and Mainspring work well on this scale.

This overwintering female cottony camellia/Taxus scale will be producing a white, waxy egg sac within the next few weeks
Photo: Jason Hipp, Deeply Rooted Tree Care

Japaneses Maple Scale

By: Stanton Gill

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding Japanese maple scale. Marie noted how this scale congregates beneath the grid tree guards. Japanese maple scale clustering under tree guards is probably for protection from predators and has been very common in nurseries using semi-solid tree guards. It is better to use wire mesh guards.

Check under tree guards for populations of Japanese maple scale
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale

By: Stanton Gill

Deborah of MDA called in to report that they found crapemyrtle bark scale on crape myrtle on the Eastern Shore. Gaye Williams, MDA, examined the sample at her lab and found mature females and males present as of May 3rd. No crawlers were seen. We are interested in knowing when the crawler period occurs here in Maryland. Please send us a sample or photos when you see crawlers.

Examine crape myrtle plant material coming in from southern nurseries for this invasive species of scale.

Monitor crapemyrtle bark scale infestations closely for pink to purple crawlers

Tea Scale on Camellia

By: Stanton Gill

We received a sample of tea scale from Easton on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on Monday. When Suzanne Klick put it under the dissecting scope, there were crawlers starting to emerge. The tea scale, which is an armored scale, is showing up with greater frequency here in Maryland. Now is a good time to apply Talus or Distance for control. Make sure to hit the undersides of the foliage where the scale is found.

Note the small yellow tea scale crawlers on this leaf

Gingko Foliage This Spring

By: Karen Rane

Jake Hendee, arborist with the Smithsonian Gardens, sent this photo of a gingko showing abnormally small leaves along the branches. The foliage on the tips of the branches is normal. These symptoms have been observed on gingko trees in both nurseries and landscapes this spring, as well as in past years, and the cause appears to be related to late spring frosts or chilling injury. Leaves that emerge after the cold periods are of normal size, lessening the effect on the tree canopy as the growing season progresses.

Gingko cv. Princeton Sentry showing small leaves along the branches, and normally-sized leaves on branch tips. Photo: Jake Hendee, Smithsonian Gardens, Washington D.C.

Peach Leaf Curl Showing up Now

By: Stanton Gill

We received pictures of a young peach tree heavily infected with peach leaf curl. The pictures tell it all. This is one bad *Taphrina* infection, peach leaf curl, caused by the fungus *Taphrina deformans*, which infects peach, nectarine, and almond trees. There is not much to do now. Any fungicide sprays for this disease at this time of year are ineffective. New growth can grow out once the weather gets warm enough. You will have to use copper this fall to reduce the inoculum and hit it again next spring in early March.

I asked Kari Peters of Penn State to comment: "The trees probably already were at bud swell when infection occurs. The only time to manage peach leaf curl is when all of the leaves are off of the trees AND before bud swell. The spores live in the buds and once you have bud swell or leaves present, there is absolutely nothing that can be done now – they are is out of luck until the fall. If it is a heavy infestation, I would recommend a spray in the fall (after the leaves have fallen) and another shot in mid-February to early March before any 60-70 temps occur."

The only thing that can be done now is wishing for warm weather so the leaves unfurl quickly. Because of the cool weather, the leaves have been unfurling slowly and this has given ample time for the fungus to roll out of bud and onto the leaves to cause infection. I've been seeing a bit of leaf curl at the various orchards for our spring meetings.

Peach leaf curl infection on a peach tree Photo: David Meadows

Bruising on Strawberry Leaves

By: Jerry Brust, UME

Over the years, I have seen dark spots on the foliage of strawberry plants like the ones in figs. 1 and 2. These spots can look pretty bad at times and are thought to possibly be the start of some disease such as angular leaf spot or anthracnose. The dark spots are usually on the upper or lower surface of the leaf, but at times can be found on both surfaces of a leaf, which can indicate a biotic source for the problem. These damaged areas of strawberry foliage can be very disconcerting when they appear as dark spots on the stems (fig. 3). No bacteria or fungi have ever been found associated with these dark spots. I have seen this type of discoloration in strawberry foliage early in the season many times over the years and have never seen the spots turn into any disease problem or any other type of problem. The best that we can come up with is that the plant has 'bruised' foliage. And as you look at the spots this is exactly what the damage looks like (kudos to Karen Rane for coming up with this description of the damage). This damage usually appears within a short time span after high winds occur. Figure 4 shows a good example of this as you can see the bruised areas of the leaves that appeared a few days after a very windy period. Also notice the tattered appearance of the leaf edges demonstrating that these leaves were knocked around a great deal. It is possible that disease organisms might enter the plant through this damaged tissue, but I have never seen this occur to any extent in the field—even during the wettest spring. Nothing needs to be done about this bruising, growers just need to be aware of the possibility occurring after wind events.

Figs. 1 and 2 Dark spots on strawberry leaves often mistaken for the start of a foliar disease
Photos: G. Brust, UME

Fig. 3 Strawberry stem with dark spot
Photo: G. Brust, UME

Fig. 4 Strawberry leaf with bruises and tattered margins
Photo: J. Lewis, UME

Lilac Borer Starting Flight this Week

By: Stanton Gill

We are starting to pick up the first male lilac borers in baited pheromone traps in Westminster this week. Protective sprays of bifenthrin or permethrin should go on the trunks of susceptible lilac. Keeping lilac renewal pruned and maintaining new vigorous growth is the best non-chemical method of dealing with this pest.

Pheromone traps are a useful tool for monitoring clearwing borers

Elsinoe on Dogwood

David L. Clement

This spring has been very good for dogwood bloom because of the cool and relatively dry weather. However, with this weekend's rains, we may see an increase in spot anthracnose disease on both flowers and leaves. Symptoms of spot anthracnose, appear as tiny (less than 1/8" diameter), circular lesions with purple borders and lighter, almost white, centers on bracts and leaves. This disease is caused by the fungus *Elsinoe corni.* In general, white cultivars of dogwood are more susceptible than pink cultivars. In seasons when environmental conditions are conducive to disease, spots on bracts and foliage may be numerous, and leaves or bracts become puckered or distorted around the spots as the leaves expand. *Elsinoe corni* survives the winter on twigs, in buds, or on infected fruit and leaves that remain on the tree. New infections occur in early spring. In most years, spot anthracnose causes little damage. However, in very cool, wet springs, symptoms can be severe.

Management: In most years control is not necessary. Spot anthracnose can be controlled preventatively with most general-purpose fungicides including propiconazole, chlorothalonil, and thiophanate methyl plus mancozeb. Spraying should begin as buds begin to open and repeated when the bracts have fallen, and continued for approximately four weeks, and again in late summer after flower buds have formed.

Symptoms of Elsinoe infection on dogwood bracts and leaves
Photos: David Clement, UME

Spotted Lanternfly Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD; and Kenton Sumpter, MDA

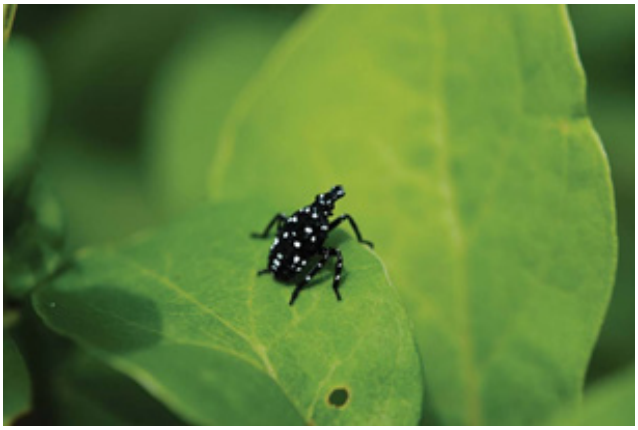
Kenton Sumpter from MD Department of Agriculture (MDA) has provided us with an update on spotted lanternfly (SLF) activity in MD and other activities that MDA has underway in regards to reporting and monitoring.

First, the big news. **SLF nymphs have started hatching.** MDA found 1st instar SLF nymphs that had just hatched from their egg mass in Washington County MD on Thursday May 5th. SLF egg hatch begins around 240 degree days (DD) and continues until around 1100 DD (usually late June / early July). This week in the MD area, DD are ranging from 218 DD to 462 DD (see DD report at the end of this newsletter). Most areas could see the beginning of egg hatch soon, so be monitor plants closely. See the USDA SLF emergence map to estimate when (what DDs) your area will see first nymph and adult emergence. If you find SLF eggs or nymphs you should consider implementing management tactics such as traps (circle or sticky), cultural (removing preferred hosts such as tree of heaven), and contact or systemic insecticides. Be conscious of bloom times and select pesticides with the least likelihood of non-target impacts. A comprehensive resource for SLF management is "Spotted Lanternfly Management for Landscape Professionals" by Penn State Extension.

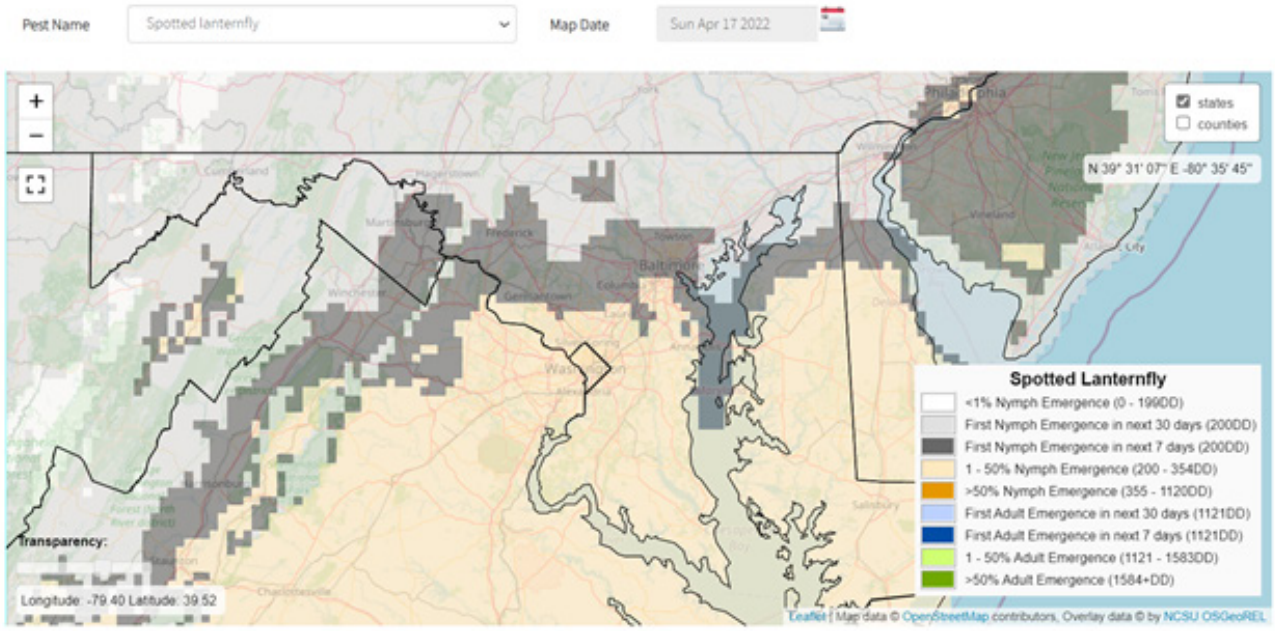
MDA has an online survey to report SLF sightings in MD. See the map indicating where SLF was found in 2021. From this map you can see if you are in area with high (or no occurrences yet) of SLF which suggests the likelihood of SLF problems this season.

In addition, MDA has an active trapping program set up for the 2022 SLF season (see map). The objectives of the program are to determine: when SLF nymphs and adults emerge; when they first show up in a county; and to anticipate when SLF will invade (likely near major highways, train stops, etc. where the probability of SLF hitch hikers is high).

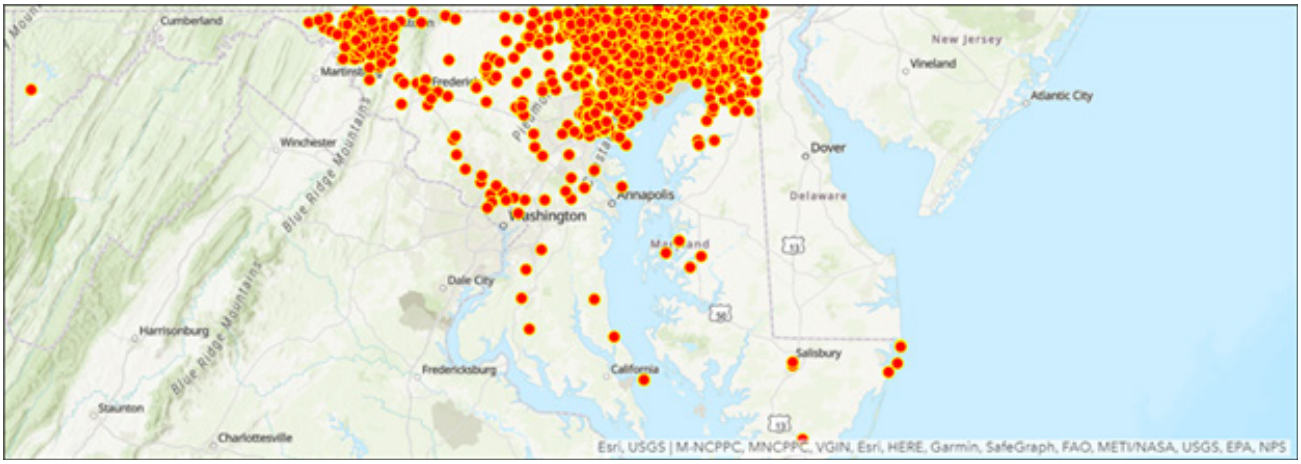
Please assist in tracking SLF distribution, host plants, and occurrences of different life stages to help slow the spread of SLF and improve its management. If you find SLF in MD, please report it (date, location, life stage, image if you have one) at the MDA website (https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx; select "Report Spotted lanternfly here" tab).



Spotted lanternfly first instar nymph. You should be monitoring host plants for egg hatch and activity of these first instars.
Photo: PA Dept. of Agriculture



This USDA map is color coded to indicate the proportion of spotted lanternfly nymph and adult emergence as indicated by DD ranges in different areas of MD.
Map by USDA



A map indicating the location and frequency of spotted lanternfly sighting in MD based on data collected from MDA's online reporting survey (6,210 reports from July 12 to Dec. 31, 2021).
Map from K. Sumpter, MDA

Roseslug Sawflies

Chris Ward, John B. Ward & Co., found roseslug sawfly larvae on a climbing rose in Villanova, PA. Now and through the summer, bristly roseslug sawfly and curled roseslug sawfly will be feeding and causing damage to roses. Roseslug sawflies can be a consistent problem on roses in this area. Sawflies are best controlled when they're young larvae. You can simply pick them off by hand. A forceful spray of water from a hose can also knock off sawflies. Once dislodged, they cannot climb back onto the plant. If control is warranted, horticultural oil, Spinosad, Mainspring, and Acelepyrn all work very well on this pest.

Roseslug sawfly larva feeding on rose foliage
Photo: Chris Ward, John B. Ward,

Rust on Amelanchier and Malus Trees

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is reporting that she is starting to see rust show up on fruit and leaves of *Amelanchier* and *Malus* species in Gaithersburg. Fungicide applications needed to be applied earlier in the season.

Gymnosporangium rust infection is evident on *Amelanchier* and *Malus* trees this week.
Photos: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Sapsucker Damage

Ross Fornaro found yellow-bellied sapsucker damage on the trunks of viburnum this week. Hollies and magnolias are also often damaged by sapsuckers.
Photo: Ross Fornaro

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Black widow spiders

Of the species of spiders found in Maryland (MD), the black widow is the only native spider that's venom can be dangerous to people. Most spiders have venom, but the other MD spiders either have too little venom to effect people, or the venom is adapted to affect the spider's prey, not people. Black widows belong to the genus *Latrodectus* in the family Theridiidae. There are 34 species of *Latrodectus* in North America which include several "widows". In this region, we have the venomous southern black widow, *Latrodectus mactans*. Widow spiders received their name because the females have been observed to eat their male mates. It is now recognized that this cannibalistic behavior happens more with widow spiders in captivity than with those in nature, mainly due to the male's inability to escape the female in captivity.

A southern black widow female, Latrodectus mactans, showing its characteristic red hourglass pattern on the underside of her abdomen.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

The female southern black widow is a small (body size is about 3/8"), shiny black spider with a red hourglass pattern on the underside of its round abdomen (see image). Other widow species have different patterns of red or orange on their bodies. Males are smaller, only about ¼" body size, and they lack the hourglass pattern, but may have some red or yellow spots on the top or underside of their abdomen. Newly hatched black widow spiderlings of both sexes are yellowish-white with markings similar to the male adult, and are harmless.

Hundreds of black widow spiderlings will hatch from a single egg sac. A single female can lay several egg sacs.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

This is the time of year when a lot of us are rummaging around in storage sheds or other outdoor storage areas where planting and potting items have not been disturbed for a while. You should be aware that this is the type of environment that black widow spiders like – undisturbed, dark, cluttered locations near the ground where it makes its irregular, loose web and hide. Black widows are not commonly found indoors; however, they may come inside with items (ex. flower pots and boxes) that were stored outside and moved in. Outside I have found black widow spiders and their webbing under the rim of black pots, inside rodent boxes placed outside buildings, and under mailboxes (don't tell the postal person!). They are also found in wood and rock piles or animal burrows. Indoors they are more likely to be found in garages, sheds, basements, and outhouses. Black widow spiders are shy and nonaggressive, and usually stay hidden in their webs. But beware: she may bite in self-defense when she is accidently grabbed or pinched! Be aware in habitats where black widow spiders may be and wear work gloves to protect yourself.

Southern black widows' mate during spring and summer. The female keeps the egg sac in her web and after about a month the spiderlings emerge from the egg sac. Each egg sac can produce hundreds of spiderlings and a single female can lay several egg sacs in her lifetime. The spiderlings go through several molts before reaching adulthood. Female black widows live about 1.5 years, and the male between 2 – 5 months.

The black widow spider fanged and paralyzed a moth which she then wrapped with silk.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

Black widow spiders are notorious for their potentially dangerous bite, although they are not aggressive and usually only bite when they feel threatened or are accidently grabbed. Female black widows have a potent neurotoxin, alpha-latrotoxin, that can cause adverse reactions in those that are bitten. Fortunately, black widows do not always inject venom when they bite and even if they do, the quantity is rather tiny. Death or serious complications from black widow bites are quite rare. Some people are only slightly affected by a bite, while others may suffer from more severe responses. The bite itself is usually painless or feels like a pinprick. However, within the first 30 minutes you may experience severe pain, burning, swelling and redness where bitten. Other symptoms may include muscle pain or spasms, abdominal cramps, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, sweating, rash and itching, swollen eyes, and / or weakness and tremors. Symptoms are most severe after 3 hours and may persist for several days. If bitten, try to catch the spider (dead or alive) for identification, and you should immediately seek medical attention, especially if the person is pregnant or a child is bitten.

Like most spiders, black widows are predators. They make irregular webs near the ground to trap prey. Widow spiders are known to consume a wide range of insects and arthropods such as ants, moths, caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, flies, cockroaches and scorpions, among others that get caught in their web. Research on black widows has found them to be beneficial predators for controlling some pest populations such as red imported fire ants and harvester ants. So, if you know of black widows and they are not in a location where they are likely to come in contact with humans, you might want to leave them be and let them eat pest insects and maybe provide some biological control.

Weed of the Week: Pokeweed

By: Kelly Nichols

Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*, is starting to become more noticeable in the landscape. The seeds of this native plant are germinating. Pokeweed is a perennial, and new growth is also coming up from existing roots. Often, new seeds and regrowth can be found in the same area. See Figures 1 and 2.

Pokeweed is most noticeable in late summer with its dark purple berries (Figure 3). The juice in the berries can be used for creating dyes. Pokeweed is found throughout the eastern United States in many areas that are fertile, have moist but not saturated soils, and areas that are not compacted. Pokeweed has many common names; pokeberry is one often used. Seedlings have long, somewhat narrow leaves that come to a point at the end. Pokeweed can grow to heights of nearly ten feet if allowed. It produces a large deep taproot that can be three inches or more in diameter and is tan to white in color. Very mature roots can have several stems growing out of it. The stems are most often hollow, smooth, and reddish to deep purple in color. When allowed to grow to its full potential, the stems can reach diameters of four inches. The stems are branched on the upper portion of the plant. The leaves are large, alternately arranged on the stem, smooth, and often have a reddish color on the underside. Leaves can be longer than fifteen inches and are usually about one third as wide as they are long. All

plant parts are toxic, including the roots and berries. All parts of this plant contain saponins and oxalates which are toxic when ingested with improper preparation. Small white flowers turn into immature green berries, which then become dark purple upon maturity. Each berry contains approximately 9 seeds, which adds up quickly with the number of berries one plant can produce! Birds can eat the berries without issues; this is also how the plant can spread. Pokeweed seeds can occasionally be found in vegetable seed.

Figure 1. Pokeweed seeds germinating on the left, and regrowth from established roots is on the right. Photo: Kelly Nichols, UME Montgomery

Mowing can be used to control pokeweed; as a perennial, it does not like frequent mowing. Preventing seed production is important to prevent the growth of additional plants; however, it is also important to control the root as well. Herbicide options in open areas include 2,4-D, dicamba, and Garlon 4; these are all selective products that can be used to control pokeweed. **Caution with these products needs to be considered as they can potentially drift or volatilize and damage desired plant species.** Prizefighter and Avenger can be used to control pokeweed when the plant is immature. Glyphosate can be used also but is non selective and can damage any plant material it comes in contact with, but volatilization is not an issue as with other products. Be aware that exposed roots and suckers of desired plants can uptake these products and cause damage.

Figure 2. Pokeweed regrowth from an existing root. Photo: Kelly Nichols, UME Montgomery County

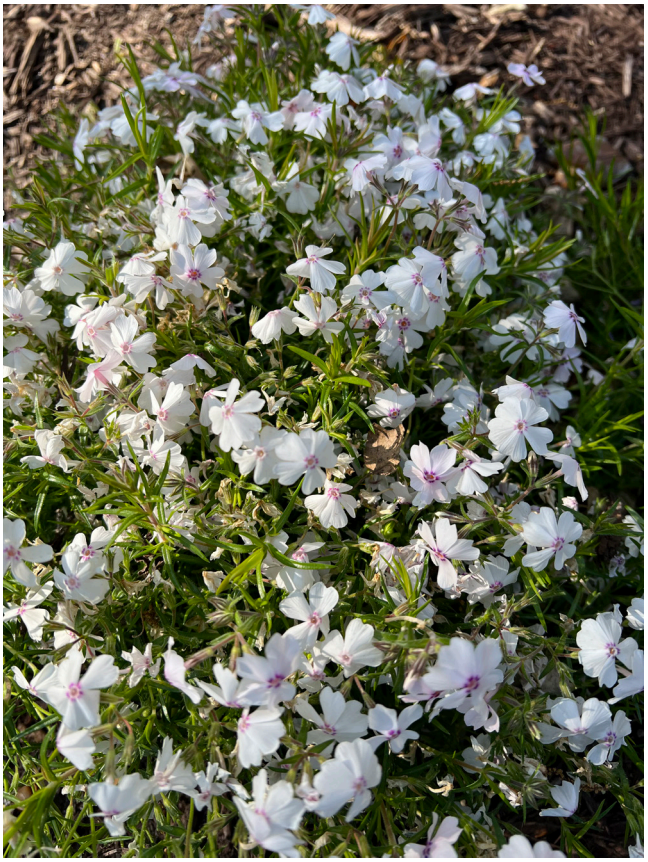
Figure 3. Pokeweed berries. Photo: Kelly Nichols, UME Montgomery County

Plant of the Week: *Phlox subulata* 'Amazing Grace'

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Phlox subulata 'Amazing Grace' has common names like moss pinks and creeping phlox, both highlighting the moss-like color and the creeping habit of this evergreen groundcover. A native plant, *Phlox subulata* can be a substitute for a lawn on steep slopes, removing the need to cut grass in dangerous situations. Many of the varieties come in shades of pink, red, white, blue and purple, while 'Amazing Grace' is pure white with bright magenta purple marks centering around the central eye of the flower. The bright flowers bloom staring in March

and continue to provide color and attract butterflies and other pollinators into May. *Phlox subulata* 'Amazing Grace' is a mat forming plant growing 4 inches tall and spreading to 18-24 inches wide. Plants prefer to grow in full sun and dry well drained, sandy, or gravel soils. In spring, they are covered with clusters of fragrant flowers made of 5 notched petals. The bright green foliage has linear, awl-shaped leaves that soften to moss green in the winter. Once established, *Phlox subulata* 'Amazing Grace' is very drought tolerant and is cold hardy in USDA zones 2-9. Plants can grace a walkway, cover a steep slope, cascading over a wall or bordering a perennial garden. In hot and dry areas spider mites can be a problem while in wet soils with high humidity, foliar nematodes are problematic. Rabbits also like this carpeting phlox.



Once established, *Phlox subulata* 'Amazing Grace' is very drought tolerant
Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

If your homeowners have questions, they can contact the UMD Home and Garden Information Center via their website.

Degree Days (as of May 4)

Aberdeen (KAPG)	218
Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	305
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	348
College Park (KCGS)	290
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	336
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	377
Frederick (KFDK)	251
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	284
Gambrils (F2488, near Bowie)	308
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	260
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	237
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	459
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	423
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	462
Westminster (KDMW)	338

Important Note: We are using the Online Phenology and Degree-Day Models site. Use the following information to calculate GDD for your site: Select your location from the map Model Category: All models Select Degree-day calculatorThresholds in: Fahrenheit °F Lower: 50 Upper: 95 Calculation type: simple average/growing dds Start: Jan 1

Conferences

May 17, 2022
MAA and UMD Extension Pest Walk
Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

June 10, 2022
Montgomery County Annual Procrastinator's Conference
The 27th Annual Procrastinator's Pesticide and Urban Nutrient Management Conference will be held on Friday, June 10. This in person meeting will take place at the Montgomery County Extension Office in Derwood.
Registration
Contact: Kelly Nichols, 301-590-2807, kellyn@umd.edu

June 17, 2022 (Virtual)
Contact: Ginny Rosenkranz, rosenkrnz@umd.edu
Schedule and Registration

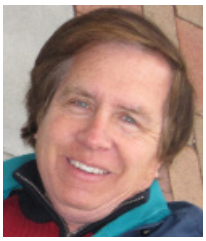
June 24, 2022 (Virtual)
Turf Program
Contact: Mark Carroll, University of Maryland

June 30, 2022
Greenhouse Biological Control Conference
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD
Details are coming soon. Contact MNLGA at 410-823-8684 with any questions.

July 28, August 4, and August 11, 2022
Drone Training Program

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information
extension.umd.edu/ipm

CONTRIBUTORS:



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Thank you to the Maryland Arborist Association, the Landscape Contractors Association of MD, D.C. and VA, the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association, Professional Grounds Management Society, and FALCAN for your financial support in making these weekly reports possible.

Photos are by Suzanne Klick or Stanton Gill unless stated otherwise.