Welcome to our new newsletter for current issues in the landscape and garden. This newsletter is aimed at the home horticulture/master gardener audience. Mary Kay Malinoski and Dave Clement are coordinating it and please send any contributions to us.

**IT WAS ONE TOUGH WINTER!**

Here is a gallery of casualties from the cold, snow, ice, salt, snow plows, hungry deer, voles, etc. Wait until new growth before pruning!

- **Salt damage on Virginia pine**
- **Salt damage on white pine**
- **Winter damage on boxwood**
- **Close up of winter color on boxwood**
Winter leaf scorch on cherry laurel

Winter damage to Euonymus

A not so hardy, hardy Camellia

Cold damage to holly

Cold damage on Magnolia

Winter color on Leyland cypress

4/15/2014
Before: juniper with salt  
After: resulting damage from salt

Cold injury to bamboo  
Cold damage to hellebore

Winter injury on liriope  
Damage on mondo grass

4/15/2014
It was a tough winter for deer and they fed on all kinds of plants. They seem to really like Arborvitae!

Deer damage on Arborvitae

Insects and Other Pests by Mary Kay Malinoski, Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center

Eastern tent caterpillars started hatching last week in central Maryland. Keep an eye out for them to start constructing tents in wild cherry, crabapple, and other hosts. Try to put up with them because they serve as important food source for baby birds. The trees will recover from any damage.

Japanese Cedar Longhorned Beetle

Japanese cedar longhorned beetle is a fairly recent arrival in Maryland. It is a smallish beetle which can vary in size from ~3/8in to almost an inch. Adult beetles overwinter and emerge in the spring (about now). Damage appears as scattered dieback. We have mostly seen the damage on Arborvitae, but it has other hosts such as Cryptomeria, Leyland cypress, and Eastern red cedar. Prune out any dead or dying branches and keep trees watered during drought to reduce stress.
Scattered branch dieback on Arborvitae is typical of damage

Healed over galleries

Adult beetle inside of branch

Oval exit hole in main branch of Arborvitae
Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs are on the move and trying to get outside into the nice spring weather. Shop-vac them up, knock them into a container of soapy water and dispose of them. Some people get great pleasure from flushing them down the toilet, but this is a waste of water.

Grubs: It is too early to treat. Be patient because the soil is still cold. Make sure grubs are actively feeding and that you have grub damage. If you only have them in a small area or spotty areas, just treat those areas. Grubex (Chlorantraniliprole) also known as Acelypryn, is the safest grub material and has the longest application window for timing. Grubs are the larvae (young) of a number of beetles including Japanese beetles, Oriental beetles, masked chafers, etc.
Time to pick or cut off those bagworm bags and scrape off those gypsy moth egg masses!

[Images: Bagworm on Arborvitae, Gypsy moth egg mass on oak]

Diseases by David Clement, Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center.

Cedar apple rust

Cedar Apple Rust galls are visible now on cedar. Cedar-apple rust, quince rust and hawthorn rust are caused by fungi in the genus Gymnosporangium. These rust fungi require two types of plants, a pomaceous plant and a juniper in which to complete their life cycle. Juniperus virginiana, the Eastern Red cedar, is the most common rust-susceptible juniper in Maryland. Conspicuous symptoms are produced on both apples and cedars. Fungal spores produced on one type of host plant are carried by wind to infect the other.

Hand pick and destroy cedar galls before the spore-producing tendrils are formed. Cedar galls are most conspicuous and easy to see in wet weather when the orange spore tendrils are extruded. After the orange tendrils are produced, it is too late to prevent spore dispersal.
Gray Snow Mold or Typhula Blight

There are several species of snow mold on turf that are only active during cold weather. The symptoms become visible as the snow cover melts. Gray snow mold or Typhula blight is caused by the fungus *Typhula incarnata*. The symptoms often include grayish to silver white matted patches of dead leaves. Another tell-tale sign of this disease are the presence of reddish orange resting structures called sclerotia embedded in the leaf tissue. These structures allow the fungus to survive during the summer. Although entire plants may be killed most often only the leaf blades are killed and new green leaves are produced from the crown in the spring as the turf recovers. Treatments are not usually recommended.

Snow mold in turf appears white above

Close up on the right showing the sclerotia which are the over-summering structures of the fungus
Under the Snow: Vole Damage by Nancy Bosold, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Berks County, PA

The snow cover this winter provided an excellent hiding place for voles, and as the snow melts we’re seeing lots of plant damage from their activities.

Voles are active year-round. They feed on a variety of things - including grasses, insects, animal remains, tree bark, bulbs, rhizomes, and seeds. The damage we most often see results from voles gnawing on roots or bark at the base of woody plants, often girdling the stems. Careful inspection of dead or dying branches reveals gnawed branches at the base, missing bark on roots or where branches contact the ground.

Voles also make tunnels and runways through turf and mulch. The concave surface runs are created when voles clip grass down to the soil surface or displace mulch. The runs are about 1.5 inches wide and resemble tiny, winding highways or luge runs. Many times these surface runways are associated with tunnels and holes, also made by voles.

Pine voles (AKA woodland voles) don’t make surface runs, but instead tunnel below the soil. They push out soil as they make their tunnels, creating small piles of soil on the ground.

Usually voles stay around areas where there are groundcovers so that they aren’t exposed to predators. The extensive tunnels that are used under snow cover are quickly abandoned when the snow melts.

You can protect individual plants by surrounding the base with ¼ inch hardware wire. Trap by setting mouse snap-traps baited with apples or peanut butter, or by using mouse box traps.

Read more at http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uh094.pdf

http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/treefruit/pests/vole/vole.asp

Vole runs in turf and dead junipers

Vole teeth marks on the base of a small fruit tree
Native Grass Danthonia

National Arboretum scientists are working to develop poverty oat grass, *Danthonia spicata*, for use in dry, shady locations with acidic soil. It may even be in your lawn since it is native over a broad portion of the United States.

Danthonia growing in very poor soil in a partially wooded setting

Danthonia, notice the curly old leaves

**Lawn Fertilizer Reminder!** The new Maryland Fertilizer Law is in effect. Remember that combination products contain fertilizer (weed and feed, crabgrass preventer, etc.) and this counts as a fertilizer application. Make sure that you are putting down the correct amount of fertilizer for your lawn size.

**Maryland’s Fertilizer Law:** [http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx)

**It is just about time to get out there and mow your lawns.** Sharpen your mower blades and mow at the correct height: 3 inches or higher for cool season grasses such as tall fescue, blue grass, rye, fine fescue, and 1 ½ inches for warm season grasses such as Bermuda an zoysia.

**Check out the new “Grass Roots”** exhibit opening mid-June at the United States National Arboretum. For more information visit their Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/NTFGrassRootsInitiative](http://www.facebook.com/NTFGrassRootsInitiative)
Japanese Pieris – Ginny Rosenkranz, Extension Educator, University of Maryland

_Pieris japonica_ or Japanese Pieris is an evergreen shrub that is slow to grow but can reach a height of 9-12 feet, especially if it is planted in partial shade with organically rich, acidic soils. The addition of the compost to the soil usually helps keep the soil moist but well drained. The growth habit is upright to slightly spreading in tiers, giving the plant a billowing form. The evergreen leaves are a glossy dark green in color but many cultivars have bright red new foliage. _Pieris japonica ‘Valley Valentine’_ new foliage is bronze green maturing to a dark green before the end of spring. The reason most people purchase _Pieris japonica ‘Valley Valentine’_ is the beautiful dark pink flowers that cascade in a waterfall of color over the total plant in early spring. The flowers themselves look very similar to the Lily of the Valley without the wonderful fragrance. Pieris can be planted in a woodland setting, as a part of a natural border or as a foundation plant. Good soil drainage is important as the Pieris is susceptible to Phytophthora root rot, and if the plants receive too much sun it can be susceptible to lace bug and mites.