

Commercial Horticulture

Special Alert

February 21, 2024

In This Issue...

- Weather update
- Single stem crape myrtles
- Weeds in winter
- Daikon radish
- Spotted lanternfly eggs

[Conferences](#)

[Pest Predictive Calendar](#)

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Lack of Real Winter in Midwest in 2024

By: Stanton Gill

The East Coast and West Coast are getting dumped on with rain this winter. It is not the same for the Midwest. I spoke with my sister-in-law in Ames, Iowa on Sunday, and she relayed that Iowa is continuing to see the worst drought over the last decade and pretty much a snowless winter. There is an article in *The Washington Post* highlighting this lack of rain/snow and real winter in the Midwest. You can search for *The Washington Post* article under:

The Midwest is experiencing a 'lost winter'. Here's what that means.

Snow is absent, ice is dangerously thin, and many cities are experiencing their warmest winter on record.

Single Stem Crape Myrtles

By: Stanton Gill

Dave Clement and I visited Beech Tree Landscape and Design recently. While we were examining plant material, something unusual caught our attention. It was several single trunk crape myrtles that had been limbed up to 6 - 7 ft of clear trunk. Steve Clancy told us single trunk crape myrtles are in demand. They had plenty of multi-trunked crape myrtles, but they also were growing single trunk trees. It is an interesting idea and it might catch on.

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

Mild February and Weeds are Doing Well

By: Stanton Gill

It reached 61 °F on February 9 and the cool season weeds are rejoicing. We are seeing all of the cool season weeds that germinated last fall greening up rapidly and they will be ready to go as soon as the weather stays warm for longer periods in March and April. On Monday, February 26, it's supposed to go back up to 60 °F. Be prepared for a strong weed crop in 2024.



Speedwell is blooming at the research center in Ellicott City as of February 21st.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Daikon Radish This Winter

By: Stanton Gill

In looking at a large planting of daikon forage radish in Westminster and in Brookeville, MD, I am seeing very green foliage and healthy tap root systems. You would think this is good except in a normal winter the top foliage would have died down by now. Usually by mid-February, the tap root has started to die with an awful rotten sauerkraut smell. None of this has happened so far. I would be interested in feedback if people are seeing daikon dying back yet. Let me know what area you are in and send along a picture or two.

Daikon radish is still green in Central MD this week. It should have died back by now.

Photo: Stanton Gill, UME



Deadnettle is growing around the research center in Ellicott City on February 21st.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Spotted Lanternfly Eggs and Chilling Requirement

By: Miri Talabac, UME-HGIC

Paula Shrewsbury, UMD, had brought in several SLF egg masses (some intact, some old) to showcase for the December 8, 2023 IPM conference. I kept them in their container in the office and hadn't gotten around to shuffling the bin of samples until February 19.

I was going to toss the container since it had gotten moldy, but noticed there were some first-instar SLF running around, which must have just hatched recently since very few were dead from presumed starvation on the bottom of the container. Our office wasn't always at room temperature, but definitely was well above any "chill hours" you would think the insects would have needed. I suppose they received all the chilling they needed by early December, which is surprising!



Spotted lanternfly eggs were used as a sample at the December 8, 2023 IPM conference. Kept inside, recently hatched nymphs were found this week.

Photo: Miri Talabac, UME-HGIC

2024 Weekly Landscape and Nursery IPM Reports

We will start sending out the regular IPM reports on **March 22**. As usual, if we have any special pest or conference announcements, we will send out an email before then.

Conferences

March 26 - 29, 2024

IPM Scouts' Training

Location: Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Ellicott City, MD

May 22, 2024

MAA Pest Walk

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

June 4, 2024

MNLGA Program: Focus on Garden Centers

Location: Ladew Gardens, Monkton, MD

June 5 and 6, 2024 (previously scheduled for February/March 2024)

Biological Control Conference for Greenhouses, Nurseries, and Landscapes

Location: Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Ellicott City, MD

June 20, 2024

UMD Extension and MNLGA Technology Field Day for Nurseries

Location: Ruppert Nurseries, Laytonsville, MD

September 17 and 18, 2024 (rescheduled from March)

Cut Flower Program

Location: Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Ellicott City, MD and several tour locations in Howard County.

October 9, 2024

MNLGA Retail Day

Location: Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville, MD

Go to the [IPMnet Conference Page](#) for links and details on these programs.

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