UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

# TPM/IPM Weekly Report

## for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

**Commercial Horticulture** **June 13, 2025**

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Natural enemies of brown ambrosia aphids
**Weed of the Week:**
Pokeweed
**Plant of the Week:**
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Cherry Explosion™

**Pest Predictive Calendar**
**Phenology**
**Conferences**

**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 sklick@umd.edu


**Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:**
Paula Shrewsbury, Professor and Extension Specialist in Ornamental and Turf IPM, Department of Entomology, pshrewsbury@umd.edu

**Regular Contributors:**
Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialist) and Nancy Harding, Faculty Research Assistant
Disease Information: David Clement (Extension Specialist) and Ana Fulladolsa (Plant Pathologist and Director, UMD Diagnostic Lab)
Weed of the Week: Kelly Nichols, Nathan Glenn, (UME Extension Educators), and Chuck Schuster (Retired Extension Educator)
Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)
Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey (Extension Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)
Design, Layout and Editing: Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)


### June 17, 2025 IPM Scouts' Session

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (check-in starts at 12:30 p.m.)
Location: CMREC, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Program to diagnose insect, disease, and cultural problems on greenhouse, nursery, cut flower, and landscape plants. Bring samples for help with identification of plant problems. The program will focus on how to diagnose plant problems. Microscopes will be available for looking at samples. Paula Shrewsbury, Andrew Ristvey, and Dave Clement will be available to answer questions and provide additional information.

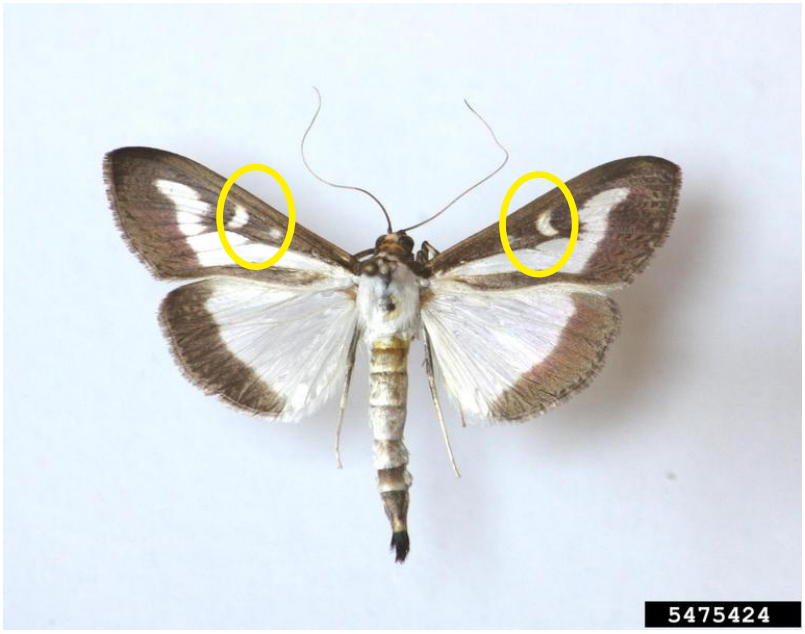
To register via Eventbrite
To register via check, send check payable to University of Maryland to June17 IPM Session, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

### Stanton A. Gill Symposium

June 24, 2025
Location: CMREC, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Co-Sponsors: University of Maryland Extension and Maryland, Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA)
MNLGA is handling the registration for this symposium.

## Box Tree Moth Detection in West Virginia

**From Timothy Brown, Director, Plant Industries Division, West Virginia Department of Agriculture: "**Four submissions of adult, pupae and larvae suspected as Box Tree Moth, *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker) (Crambidae), made on 05/29/2025 from boxwood (Buxus sp.) in a resort in Hedgesville, Berkeley County, West Virginia were confirmed on June 4, 2025 by the USDA ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory. *Cydalima perspectalis* is a Quarantine pest. This is a New State Record."




**Distinctive white markings in both top wings (circled in yellow).**
**Photo: Szabolcs Sáfián, University of West Hungary, Bugwood.org**

Box tree moth has also been found in New York, Michigan, Ohio, Massachusetts, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. MDA has information on-line on the box tree moth life cycle and on how to report sightings to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The UME Home and Garden Information Center also has information on-line on box tree moth.

Suspect BTM ? Contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture at ppwm.mda@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-841-5920.

## Yucca Plant Bug

David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care, found a lot of stippling on foliage of yucca plants in McLean, VA this week. The damage was caused by yucca plant bugs (*Halticotoma valida*) feeding on the plants. This native plant bug can cause serious damage to yucca plants by using their piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on yucca. They also deposit unsightly black, fecal drops on leaves. Heavy infesations year after year can reduce plant vigor and cause plants to die. There are multiple generations each year, so continue to monitor plants throughout the season. A systemic insecticide such as flupyradifuron (Altus) controls this bug. Since the nymphs are on open foliage, low risk materials such as insecticidal soap can make contact and provide good control.

**Yucca plant bugs cause yellow stippling damage when feeding on foliage and leave black fecal spots on leaves.**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care**

## Spotted Lanternfly Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Spotted lanternfly (SLF, *Lycorma delicatula*) nymphs continue to be active. This week Kyle Ewing and Jared Martin, Bartlet Tree Experts, report seeing their first SLF in St. Michaels MD. Usually the pattern of infestation into new areas is you see just a few the first year, then several the second year, and by the 3rd year their LOTS. Get ready St. Michaels.

**Spotted lanternfly nymphs, likely 3rd instars, foraging on the stem of *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven) in Howard County MD.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**


**Spotted lanternfly (mostly 4th instar) nymphs (4th instars are red with black and white coloring).**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**

There are mostly 3rd instar nymphs active currently. There are four nymphal instars before the SLF become adults, which usually occurs in July with **first adult activity around 1112 DD**. If you look at the degree day accumulations for various areas of MD and DC, you will see a few areas are at or just past the 1112 DD threshold for adult SLF, while other areas are getting close. **If you see 4th instar nymphs or adult SLF, please let us know (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu) and include the date, location, plant, and a picture if possible.**

## Tuliptree Scale Activity

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care, and Mason Broderick sent images of scale on tuliptree. They both noted ants on the trees and honeydew. These are tuliptree scales, *Toumeyella liriodendri*, on tuliptree. Tuliptree scale gets on tuliptree and magnolia. Tuliptree scale overwinters as dark colored nymphs. In the spring they begin to develop and suck phloem sap from the tree. At this time of the season the scales have matured to adult females (humped up, dark colored scales) and males (likely pupa inside, smaller oval shaped, and clear to white scales) (see the image). Male adults are or will soon be emerging from their pupal stage, mate with females, and females will continue to feed and develop. Now the scales are producing honeydew that will have growth of sooty mold and ants that "farm" the scales to access scale honeydew – a nutritious food resource for them. Crawlers, the optimal life stage to target with controls, will be produced around August and September. Click here for more information and images on tuliptree scale.

**Adult female (brownish, humped up scales) and male (smaller, clear-white scales) tuliptree scales, *Toumeyella liriodendri*, on tuliptree.**
**Photo: Mason Broderick, Unity Church Hill Nursery**

## Damage to Boxwood Leaves: Two months post freeze

By Paula Shrewsbury

We often get reports of damage to plants, but we don't usually see how the plant responds or recovers from that damage down the road. You might recall the images that Mark Noll (Maxalea) shared from a site he was at on April 9th in Towson, MD where there was freeze damage to boxwood leaves. Today Mark sent images of the same plant. It looks like the boxwoods did not suffer too much and they will recover.

**Unusual freeze damage to boxwood leaves on April 9, 2025.**
**Photo: Mark Noll, Maxalea, Inc.**

**Close up view of leaf damage that suffered from freeze about 2 months ago.**
**Photos: Mark Noll, Maxalea, Inc.**

**A view of the boxwood that suffered from freeze about two months ago.**
**Photos: Mark Noll, Maxalea, Inc.**

## Barklice

Emily Porter, UME-HGIC, forwarded photos submitted through the Ask Extension portal of barklice clustered on the trunk of a crape myrtle. We often receive reports of barklice after periods of rain or during high humidity times during the summer. Often, it is the non-winged form that is seen. Alates (winged forms) are produced to spread the population. Barklice do not feed on living plants. They feed on lichens, decaying organic matter, dead insects, molds, fungi and pollen. No control is necessary.

**Barklice do not feed on living plants.**
**Photo: Via Ask Extension website**

## Red Milkweed Beetle

David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care, found red milkweed beetles on common milkweed in Leesburg, VA this week. This beetle is found more often on common milkweed, but it also feeds on other milkweed species and dogbane. Red milkweed beetles do not cause significant damage and do not impact monarch butterfly larvae, so control is usually not necessary.

**A mating pair of red milkweed beetles on common milkweed.**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care**

## Termite Adults Swarming

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Dave Freeman (Oaktree Property Care) and Marie Rojas (IPM Consultant) reported swarming termites (alates, winged termites) over the last week or so. In late spring and early summer, the winged matures of subterranean termites are flying around. When the weather gets warm, the winged termites come out to mate and develop new colonies. Your clients may notice black bodied flying insects that look like a large ant but may be termites. It is good to be able to tell the difference between ants and termites to inform your clients.

*How do you tell the difference between winged termites and winged ants?* Ants have elbowed antennae, front wings are longer than the hind wings, and a narrow "waist" (where their thorax and abdomen come together). Whereas termites have straight antennae, front and hind wings that are similar in length and shape, do not have a pinched or narrow "waist". See the diagram for examples of these diagnostic characteristics.

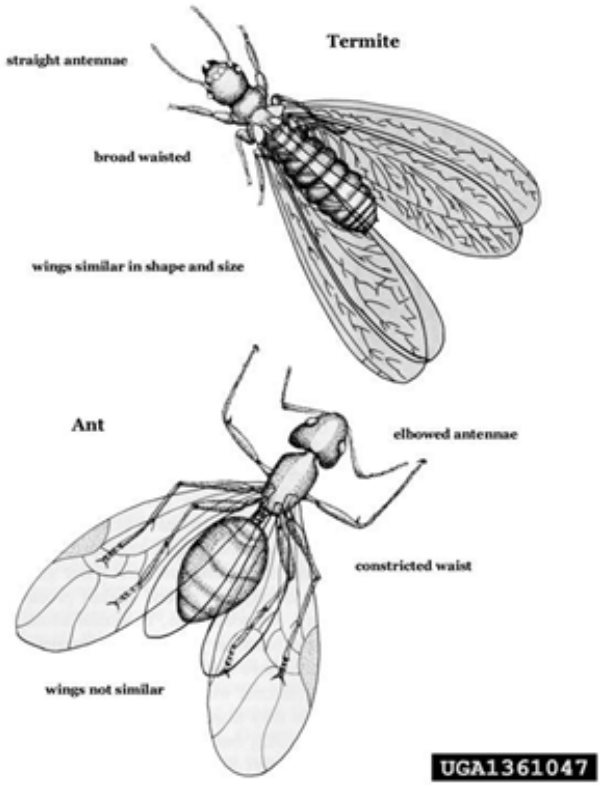



**Diagram comparing winged termites and ants. Diagram from USDA Forest Service Archive, Bugwood.org**

**Winged termites (alates) are swarming at this time of year. Photo: Karen Murtagh**

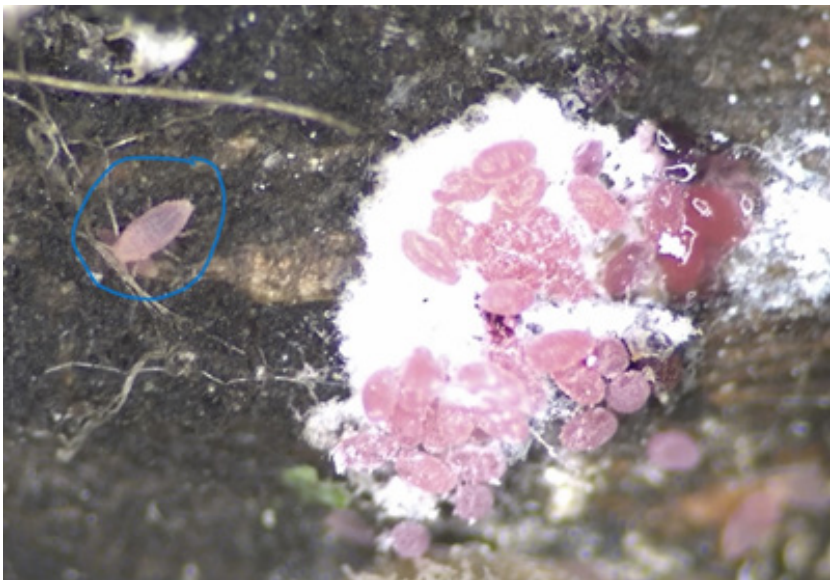
## Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Big increase in crawler activity this week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Sheena O'Donnell (CMREC Research Tech., UME) continues to monitor for crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS), *Acanthococcus lagerstroemia*, weekly in University Park, MD. This week on Monday 6/9, the number of crawlers continued to increase from last week and there were far fewer ovisacs with eggs. Active crawlers, newly settled crawlers, and 1st instarts starting to form their wax were observed.

Anyone who has CMBS on crape myrtles should be closely monitoring for the presence of crawler activity (click here for good video showing crawler activity). Egg hatch and **crawler activity CMBS is reported to occur around 724 DDs.** All areas of MD are past 724 DDs already.

*Recommendations:* If you have CMBS crawler activity, now is the time to treat. There are multiple chemical controls that are available for CMBS suppression. These include systemics such as dinotefuron, or contacts such as horticultural oil or other labeled products, and insect growth regulators such as pyriproxyfen or buprofezin. Be sure to follow label directions to protect natural enemies and pollinators and get optimal control. If CMBS densities are low and/or the number of trees are few, you can use mechanical control such as a soft scrub brush and water to physically wash the scales off the branches and trunk of the tree to reduce the populations.



**A newly emerged crawler (pink, circled in blue on left) of CMBS. A disturbed ovisac with lots of pink eggs that look like crawlers are hatching from them.**
**Photo: Sheena O'Donnell, UME**

**Image demonstrates various life stages of crapemyrtle bark scale from crawlers to mature females and ovisacs.**
**Photo: P. Porter, Texas A&M**

## Yellow Poplar Weevil Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury

On Tuesday June 11th, we put out a Special IPM Alert on the native yellow poplar weevil (YPW), *Odontopus calceatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) that was outbreaking on magnolias and causing significant damage to the newer foliage. If you did not see the Special IPM Alert on Yellow Poplar weevil, please click on the link and read up it.

In addition to the YPW outbreaks in nurseries in Frederick, MD, we have had several reports of YPW and their damage to magnolias and tuliptree in landscape environments. The landscape reports indicate the YPW are at relatively low densities. There are also reports of the weevil adults crawling on non-plant stuff, including people. The reports have mainly been coming from MD and VA, and I also read they are occurring in OH.

**What do we not know?** I am not sure if the YPW adults we are seeing now are the adults that have emerged from overwintering, OR new adults produced this year that will hopefully go into their overwintering stage soon. Because I have not seen any leaf mining damage or signs of eggs on the magnolias I looked at, I am leaning towards these being adults that just came out from overwintering. We will have to keep monitoring

host plants (Magnolia, sassafras, tuliptree, and bay laurel) to determine this for sure. **Please help monitor for blotch-type leafmines caused by the larvae of YPW**. See the images so you know what to look for.

**If you find yellow poplar weevil, please let us know (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu). Please include the host plant, life stage, location and date. Send pictures if possible. Please monitor for the blotch-type leaf mines caused by the larval stage of YPW.**

**Management**: If you have significant densities of YPW adults and their damage, I suggest targeting the adults now to lower their populations and damage. I could not find YPW specifically listed on any chemical control products, though some list adult beetles and even weevils. Pyrethroids, such as bifenthrin, have been shown to work on the adults. However, pyrethroids are very hard on beneficials and several parasitoids of YPW are known. Try a product that is easier on beneficials. I am not sure how effective it would be but chlorantraniliprole (ex. Acelepryn, Diamid T&O), cyclaniliprole (ex. Sarisa) or another foliar or soil applied systemic may work on the adults and the larvae. The use of a spreader sticker is recommended.


**Yellow poplar weevil, *Odontopus calceatus*, adult on magnolia flower. Note feeding damage on flower petal on the right.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**


**Feeding damage on the leaf of magnolia by a yellow poplar weevil, *Odontopus calceatus*.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**


**Blotch-type leaf mines caused by the larvae of yellow poplar weevil (*Odontopus calceatus*). Leaf mines often start at the edge of the leaf.**
**Photo: L.L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org**

**A blotch-type leaf mines caused by the larvae of yellow poplar weevil (*Odontopus calceatus*). You can see several small larvae that were in the leaf mine (inside blue circle).**
**Photo: L.L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org**

## Woolly Aphid on American Elm

By: Paula Shrewsbury

David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care, found woolly aphids (*Eriosoma* sp.) on American elm, *Ulmus americana*, in Fairfax, VA this week. Woolly aphid activity starts early in the season around 163 DD. So, the aphids have undergone multiple generations. Feeding results in leaf distortion and the presence of honeydew. Natural predators like lacewings, lady beetles, hover flies, and parasitic wasps feed on these aphids. If necessary to reduce large infestations, insecticidal soap or horticultural oil sprays can be used when weather allows. If infestation is not extensive you can hand pick and remove heavily infested leaves to reduce the populations.

**Woolly aphids on the underside of elm foliage.**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care**

## Sycamore Anthracnose

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding sycamore anthracnose infections this week. With the rains this weekend and humidity, the infection period will continue. Now is not the time of year to apply fungicides. Fungicides need to be applied in the Fall or in January.

Sycamores have an indeterminate growth pattern and will produce new growth throughout the season to cover up infected areas of the tree.

**Sycamore anthracnose infections will continue during the forecasted upcoming wet weather period.**
**Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout**

## Elder Shoot Borer

In the May 2 IPM report, Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, reported finding the larvae of elder shoot borers feeding on *Sambucus nigra* 'Eva'. This week, David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care, found the pupal stage within stems of elderberry in McLean, VA. Prune out the damaged stems to reduce the population by preventing the emergence of adults and the laying of eggs (overwintering stage). Be sure to remove cut stems from the area.

**Look for the pupal stage of elder shoot borer in dead stems of elderberry.**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care**

## Cypress Twig Gall Midge on *Taxodium*

By: David Phan (UME Intern) and Paula Shrewsbury

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found cypress twig gall midges (*Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa*, Diptera: Cecidomyiidae), on *Taxodium distichum* in Gaithersburg, MD on June 12th. Cypress twig gall midges are tiny flies that are tan with clear wings and orange-red abdomens (female) or tan-orange abdomens (male). The females will lay their eggs on young leaves or leaf bud tissue of bald xypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*). The eggs are a bright orange, typically laid in clusters of fifteen. The developing maggots will make the gall swell up to ¾ to 1 ¼ inches long. The gall itself is spongy and will get bigger depending on how many maggots are in the gall. The galls are found along the stems (not the tips) of the outer portion of the branches. New galls are pale green or pink, with a white bloom (waxy covering). The maggots in the galls can pupate and adults may emerge from galls throughout the season. Older galls, after adult midges have emerged, will turn brown and eventually fall from the tree as the leaves shed.

**Galls caused by the cypress twig gall midge on *Taxodium*.**
**Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout**

Cypress twig galls can sometimes be mistaken for the cone which is found at the tip of the twig. These galls do not usually cause enough damage to warrant control. To reduce populations, galls can be pruned out if feasible, and the old galls that have fallen to the ground in the autumn can be collected and destroyed. Several parasitoids attack the midge and provide suppression.

Click here for additional information on Cypress twig gall midge.

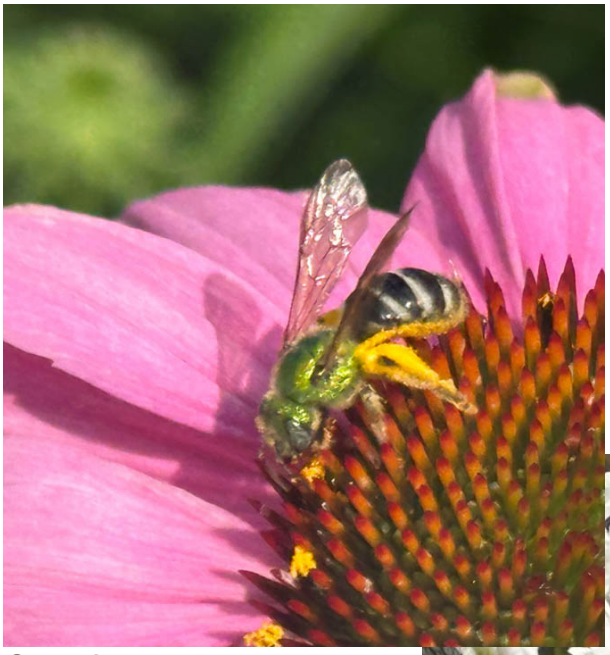
## Japanese Beetle Adult: First report of the season

We received the first report of a Japanese beetle adult of the season from John Hochmuth Jr.. The beetle was observed on rose near Oxford, MD (Talbot County). Adult emergence is predicted to start at 1026 DD. Start monitoring and get ready. Hopefully, it won't be a bad Japanese beetle year!

**Japanese beetle adult activity has started.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**

## Beneficial Insect Activity

As you are maintaining and scouting landscapes and nurseries, keep an eye out for the various beneficial pollinator and predaceous insects that are active.



**Sweat bee**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oak-tree Property Care**

**The above photo is the pupal stage of a lady beetle.**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care**

**Drone fly**
**Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care**

### Identifying the Feeding Damage

Anna Simons, sent in photos of *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' with damaged foliage. She noted that she has been seeing this damage at a few clients' houses in the last few years. This week, Anna reported, "Well a few weeks ago, I caught the culprits red-winged in my own yard. Two birds- a finch and a sparrow, were sitting on top and devouring them." Has anyone else seen birds doing this damage? It's possible some birds are causing this damage as they search for insects.

Miri Talabac, UME-HGIC, reported a "groundhog about 30-plus feet up in a mulberry tree, eating foliage in the College Park/Greenbelt area. Miri noted that a groundhog did the same thing around this time last year as well." You might see damage in an odd spot later on and not know the cause.

**A finch and a sparrow were observed feeding on these leaves.**
**Photo: Anna Simons**

**The yellow arrow points to the groundhog that is about 30 feet up this tree feeding on mulberry fruit.**
**Photo: Miri Talabac, UME-HGIC**

### Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

## What's feeding on brown ambrosia aphids

In the May 9th, 2025 Landscape and Nursery IPM Report, red aphids, likely *Uroleucon rudbeckiae* (goldenglow aphid), were reported on black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*; and a related red aphid, likely *Uroleucon ambrosiae* (brown ambrosia aphid), were found on cup plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*. About a month later, June 12th, I observed the growing colony of brown ambrosia aphids on the cup plant in addition to a suite of natural enemies that were feasting on the abundance of food available to them. Today I will share who those natural enemies were.

There were **syrphid fly (Diptera: Syrphidae)** larvae feeding on the aphids. The syrphid fly larvae were busy consuming numerous aphids. Syrphid fly adults are bee mimics and feed on pollen from flowers, and there were several adults flying around the cup plant. They lay their small white oval-shaped eggs individually on leaves and stems that have an abundance of food for when the larvae hatch. Click here to learn more about syrphid flies. There were **lady beetle adults and larvae (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)** foraging and feeding on the brown ambrosia aphids. I saw multi-colored Asian lady beetles and Cycloneda or polished lady beetles. I even found a happy lady beetle larva in the act of consuming aphids. I did see a few **green lacewing adults** fly off a leaf when I disturbed the plant. I did not see lace wing larva, but it is just a matter of time for that life stage to begin voraciously feeding on aphids. To learn more about lace wing predators click here. **Spiders** were also foraging on the aphids and seemed to be getting their full. **Aphid parasitoids** were also active. There were numerous **aphid mummies** on the underside of the leaves with red ambrosia aphids. There are multiple species of small parasitic wasps that use their ovipositor to insert an egg into the aphids. The egg hatches and the parasitoid wasp larva consume the inside of the aphid. In the process, the aphid body swells in size and changes to a tan color giving a mummy-like appearance, and the aphid ultimately dies. Once the wasp completes its pupation inside the aphid, she will chew a circular hole in the top of the aphid from which the adult will emerge. Click here to learn more about aphid parasitoids and mummies.

With the community of predators and parasitoids attacking and consuming the brown ambrosia aphids on the cup plant, it is only a matter of time before the aphids are gone. Just as exciting, the natural enemies will then move onto other plants in the landscape that have herbivores they consume. Thanks for providing biological control natural enemies!


**Green lacewing adults were active on the cup plant. Soon there should be a population of hungry lacewing larvae munching on the aphids.**
**Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD**


**A Cycloneda or polished lady beetle adult feeding on a brown ambrosia aphid.**
**Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD**


**The larva of a *Cycloneda* or polished lady beetle feeding on a brown ambrosia aphid.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**


**Syrphid or flower fly larva that has been feeding on brown ambrosia aphids. The dark discoloration on the leaf is the fecal drops from the syrphid fly.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**


**The tan, bloated-looking aphids have been parasitized by a wasp. The parasitized aphids are referred to as mummies.**
**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**


**Lynx spiders like this male *Oxyopes* find aphids irresistibly tasty any time of day.**
**Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD**

## Weed of the Week

By:Nathan Glenn

**Pokeweed: *Phytolacca americana***

Recent warm temperatures and early summer rainfall have spurred a flush of weed growth—**pokeweed** is one that's easy to spot. Also known as *pokeberry*, this vigorous perennial is common across the eastern United States and thrives in fields, roadsides, utility right-of-ways, mulched areas, and along wooded edges.

**Identification:**

Pokeweed is a **large, herbaceous perennial** that emerges from both seed and persistent, fleshy roots. Seedlings have narrow, pointed leaves, while mature plants feature:

- **Large, alternate leaves** (up to 15 inches long)
- **Smooth, reddish-purple undersides**

- **Hollow, thick stems** that turn reddish to deep purple with maturity
- **White flower clusters** beginning to appear now
- **Dark purple berries** that will follow later this summer

The plant can grow over **10 feet tall** with **taproots up to 3 inches thick** and **stems up to 4 inches in diameter**. One plant can produce hundreds of berries, each containing approximately **9 seeds**, contributing to rapid spread.

**Fun Fact**: Pokeweed berries are a favorite of birds, which eat them without harm and help spread seeds across wide areas. However, the plant contains **toxic compounds** (saponins and oxalates) that are harmful to humans and livestock when ingested.

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

**Growth & Spread:**

Pokeweed spreads via both seed and regrowth from existing roots. Seeds are long-lived in the soil and occasionally even contaminate vegetable seed. Its deep taproot allows regrowth after cutting or failed control attempts.


**Figure 2. Mature pokeweed foliage.**
**Photo: Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org.**

**Cultural Control:**

- **Frequent mowing** can help suppress pokeweed in open areas, but it will regrow unless the root is addressed.
- **Preventing seed production** is essential to avoid long-term establishment.
- **Hand-pulling** may work for young plants but is often ineffective on mature roots.

**Chemical Control:**

**Selective herbicide options** for controlling pokeweed in non-turf areas:

- **Triclopyr**
- **2,4-D**
- **Dicamba**

*Note: These products can drift or volatilize, so apply with caution near sensitive or ornamental plants.*

**Non-selective options**:

- **Glyphosate**: Effective but may damage any vegetation it contacts. Volatilization is not an issue.
- **Prizefighter** and **Avenger**: Organic options that are more effective on immature plants.

Be aware: Even non-foliar contact—like **root zone overlap or sucker uptake**—can result in injury to nearby desirable plants.

**Best Practices:**

- Scout for pokeweed now while it's actively growing but before berries develop.
- For mature infestations, combine mechanical removal with carefully timed herbicide applications (summer into early fall).

Always follow herbicide label instructions regarding site use, rates, and precautions

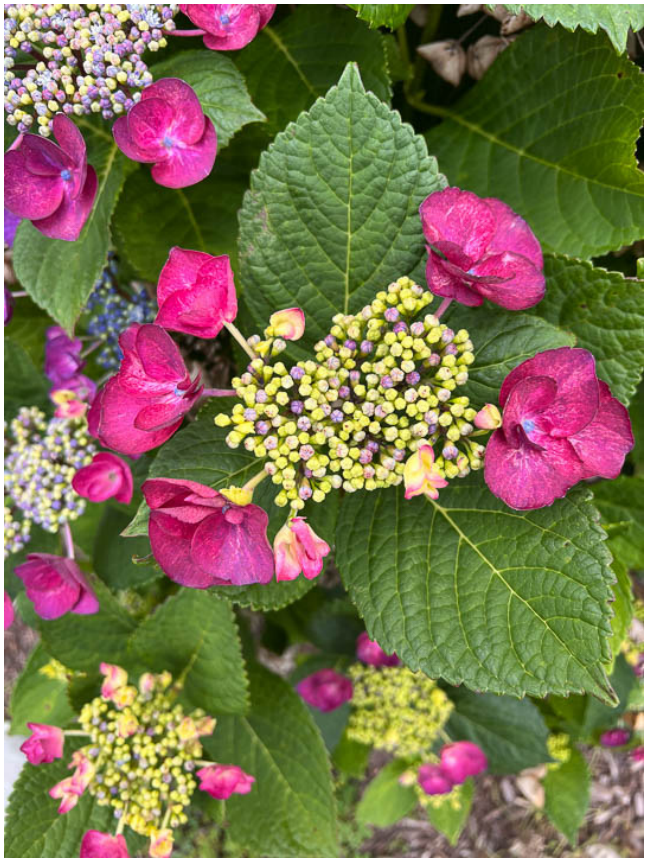

**Figure 3. Pokeweed flowers with small, green, immature berries beginning to form. Photo: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.**

**Figure 4. Pokeweed berries. Photo: Kelly Nichols, UME Montgomery**

## Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

*Hydrangea macrophylla* Cherry Explosion™ is also known as the big leaf hydrangea, a summertime bloomer that prefers morning sun and afternoon shade with organically rich, moist, well drained soils. Many hydrangea flower colors are linked to the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, the more acidic the soils the bluer the flowers, while the addition of lime to raise the soil pH will result in the pinker the flowers. when the soil is not acidic or alkaline, the flowers are often purple. The best time to add either lime or an acidic fertilizer would be in the autumn. Cherry Explosion™ is no different and needs additional lime in the autumn to maintain the brilliant cherry pink color. As a lace cape hydrangea, the 3-5 inch round flat cluster of flowers include the large, sterile flowers surrounding the smaller, soft pink fertile flowers. Although the larger flowers are sterile, they are an attractant for the pollinators to ensure they visit the tiny center flowers that often look like unopened buds. Cherry Explosion™ is able to bloom early in summer on last years growth, then continues to bloom on new growth into the autumn. Most of the big leaf hydrangea grow very large, from 6-10 feet, but Cherry Explosion™ is a compact grower that only grows 3-4 feet tall and wide, allowing them to be a wonderful summer border around a patio, in a cottage garden, a shade garden,



***H. macrophylla* Cherry Explosion™is a compact grower that grows to only 3-4 feet tall and wide. Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME**

as a foundation plant on the east side of the buildings and even in containers. The plants are multi-stemmed deciduous shrubs with dark green foliage that turns a golden yellow in the autumn. The oval 3–6-inch leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stems and have a toothed margin. Plants are cold tolerant from USDA zones 5-11, and the flowers can be used as cut fresh flowers or wait until they have finished blooming in late fall and cut them as dried flowers. Plants can be susceptible to bacterial wilt, bud blight, leaf spot and mildew, with aphids as occasional visitors.

## Pest Predictive Calendar "Predictions"

By: Nancy Harding and Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

In the Maryland area, the accumulated growing degree days (**DD**) this week range from about **899 DD** (Greater Cumberland) to **1390 DD** (St. Mary's City). The Pest Predictive Calendar tells us when susceptible stages of pest insects are active based on their DD. Therefore, this week you should be monitoring for the following pests. The estimated start degree days of the targeted life stage are in parentheses.

Oak lecanium scale – egg hatch / crawler **(789 DD)**
Rhododendron borer – adult emergence **(815 DD)**
Japanese maple scale – egg hatch / crawler (1st gen) **(829 DD)**
Dogwood borer – adult emergence **(830 DD)**
European elm scale – egg hatch / crawler **(831 DD)**
European fruit lecanium scale – egg hatch / crawler **(904 DD)**
Cyrptomeria scale – egg hatch / crawler **(937 DD)**
Azalea bark scale – egg hatch / crawler **(957 DD)**
Hibiscus sawfly – larva, early instar **(1015 DD)**
Japanese beetle – adult emergence **(1026 DD)**
Fletcher scale – egg hatch / crawler **(1105 DD)**
Spotted lanternfly – first adult activity **(1112 DD)**
Fall webworm – egg hatch (1st gen) **(1142 DD)**
Indian wax scale – egg hatch / crawler **(1145 DD)**
Oriental beetle – adult emergence **(1147 DD)**
Peachtree borer – adult emergence **(1181 DD)**
Catalpa Sphinx – egg hatch (1st gen) **(1365 DD)**
Green June beetle – adult emergence **(1539 DD)**
Scarlet oak slug sawfly – larva, early instar **(1544 DD)**
Pine needle scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(1561 DD)**

See the Pest Predictive Calendar for more information on DD and plant phenological indicators (PPI) to help you better monitor and manage these pests.

## Degree Days (as of June 11, 2025)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK) | 1039 | Baltimore, MD (KBWI) | 1144 |
| Belcamp (FS836) | 958 | College Park (KCGS) | 1112 |
| Dulles Airport (KIAD) | 1077 | Ellicott City | 1002 |
| Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA) | 1181 | Frederick (KFDK) | 985 |
| Gaithersburg (KGAI) | 1038 | Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE) | 899 |
| Martinsburg, WV (KMRB) | 964 | Millersville (MD026) | 1055 |
| Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA) | 1338 | Perry Hall (C0608) | 938 |
| Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY) | 1052 | St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK) | 1390 |
| Westminster (KDMW) | 1188 | | |

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

June 17, 2025 (afternoon)
**IPM Scouts' Diagnostic Session**
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD
Registration Information

June 18, 2025
**Eastern Shore Pesticide Recertification Conference via Zoom**

June 18, 2025
**MAA Evening Plant Diagnostic Clinic**
Location: Hood College, Frederick, MD
Registration Information

June 24, 2025
**Stanton A. Symposium and Lab Dedication**
Location: CMREC, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
**Co-Sponsors:** University of Maryland Extension and Maryland, Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA)
MNLGA is handling the registration for this symposium.

June 27, 2025
**Pesticide Recertification Conference**
Location: Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD
Registration information

July 24, 2025
**MNLGA Growers Day at North Creek Nurseries**
Program and Registration Information

September 11, 2025
**MNLGA Field Day**
Location: Raemelton Farm, Adamstown, MD

October 29, 2025
**FALCAN Truck and Trailer Safety Seminar**
Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD

**Commercial Ornamental IPM Information**
**http://extension.umd.edu/ipm**

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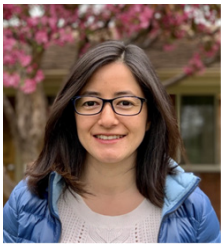

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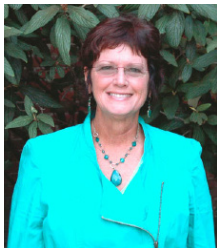

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