UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TPM/IPM Weekly Report

for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

Commercial Horticulture **June 27, 2025**

In This Issue...

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:
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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)

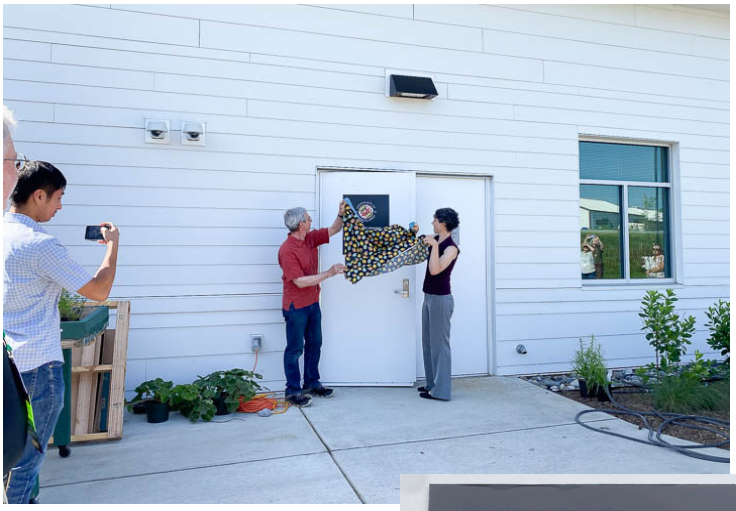
Fourth of July Holiday - No Report Next Week
The next report will be July 11, 2025

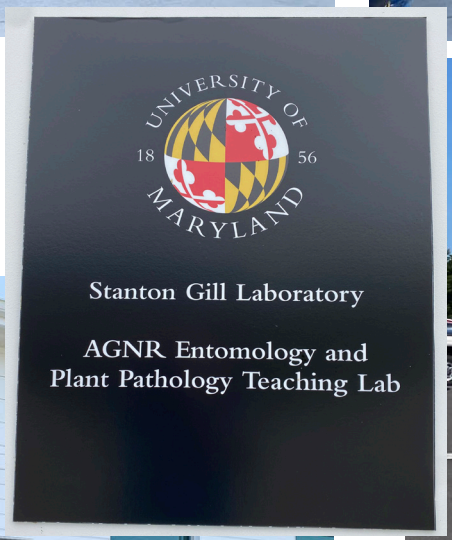
Summary of the First Stanton Gill Symposium

By: Suzanne Klick

On June 24, 2025, we recognized and celebrated Stanton Gill's almost 50 years of service to the commercial ornamental horticulture industry at the first Stanton A. Gill Symposium (co-sponsoredy with MNGLA). We started off the day with a few words from Dave Clement, Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology here at CMREC, and Darren Jarboe, Agriculture and Food Systems Program Director, before going outside to unveil the plaque for the Stanton Gill Entomology and Pathology Lab here in our new building. Stanton's brother, Dave Gill, and daughter, Kelly MacBride-Gill, did the unveiling.

Stanton's brother, Dave Gill, and his daughter, Kelly MacBridge-Gill, start the unveiling of the plaque. Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME





The Stanton Gill Laboratory Dedication
Photos: Suzanne Klick, UME

Paula Shrewsbury and Michael Brownbridge before the unveiling begins.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Michael Brownbridge, BioWorks, who has known Stanton for about 30 years came to the symposium to speak about biopesticides and biostimulants. Interwoven in his scientific talk was how much fun he and Stanton had when they presented at the same programs. Photos of their faces often found their way onto superhero or cartoon bodies on presentation slides. Michael revealed how he learned not to give a presentation file to Stanton ahead of time. One year, with early access to the file, Stanton was able to swap his head for Michael's to turn the joke back around onto Michael.

Paula Shrewsbury, UMD Faculty Extension Entomologist, presented on the results of biological control trials, including ones on which she and Stanton collaborated. Paula highlighted some of what Stanton accomplished over his long career. She emphasized how much Stanton strived to find innovative solutions with minimal impact to the environment to current green industry problems. He was a great communicator and shared new ideas and trial results through his many trade industry and journal articles as well as during his many talks at conferences.

In the afternoon, Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant, Steve Black, Raemelton Farm, Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc., and Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener, talked about Stanton's impact on their career and business choices. They commented on the following.

They shared how Stanton was never daunted by problems. He always pursued solutions using all resources available…and he had a lot of resources! Stanton was so extensively connected with people in the industry and he never hesitated to make a call - even right in front of you - to get the answer. Stanton had a strong influence on many of their career and business choices – from helping them change careers altogether or by giving them detailed and extensive advice and guidance on how to set up their business or deal with issues they faced.

The Stanton Gill Lab at CMREC
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Stanton was always only a phone call away. All miss being able to call him up and get help with a problem or report an exciting new insect find. A phone call with Stanton didn't just stick to the problem at hand. It could easily switch to any of a wide variety of topics from family updates to investment options to what new larger-than-human-sized insect artwork he was making out of wood or glass. He was a big part of our lives and he will be sincerely missed.

As mentioned last fall, there is a scholarship set up in his honor at Montgomery College.
Here is the information if you wish to contribute.

Stanton A. Gill Horticulture Scholarship
A scholarship has been established at Montgomery College to honor and continue the memory of Stanton Gill, a renowned teacher, scientist, innovator, and mentor. If you are interested in donating to the fund, there are several ways to contribute:

Via check to:
Montgomery College Foundation
Attn: Jonathan Strausberg
For: Stanton A. Gill Horticulture Scholarship
9221 Corporate Blvd. E334, Rockville, MD 20850
Please put a note on the memo line of the check indicating the donation is for the Stanton A. Gill Horticulture Scholarship.

Online:
Go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/donate. Check the "Give to where the need is greatest" box and be sure to check the "In honor of someone" box. Add a note that this is a memorial gift in honor of Stanton in the Comments section

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury

On June 23rd, Sheena O'Donnel (CMREC Research Tech., UME) monitored for crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS), *Acanthococcus lagerstroemia*, in University Park, MD. There were mostly 2nd instar nymphs, and some adult female scales and male pupae. College Park, near University Park, had an accumulation of 1505 DD on June 25th. We will continue to monitor and let you know when females start to produce eggs and when crawlers of the next generation become active.

Recommendations: Under these circumstances, I do not recommend treating the CMBS infested trees. You can use a soft scrub brush and water to physically wash the scales off the branches and trunk of the tree to reduce the populations where feasible.

Sheena continues to see an abundance of natural enemies active on the crape myrtle including 3 lady beetle species (*Harmonia axyridis*, *Hyperaspis bigeminata*, and *Chilorcorus stigma*) and lots of lacewing eggs.

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

Gloomy Scale Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury and Nancy Harding, UMD

In the June 6th IPM Alert, we announced that crawler activity for gloomy scale was occurring in College Park, MD which was at 884 DD. We have continued to monitor this location and this week there was little to no crawler activity and most of the scales were developed to a stage where they would be protected by their waxy cover. College Park was at 1468 DD on 6/24/2025. This information indicates it is too late to treat gloomy scale. Be sure to monitor your gloomy scale infested maples to see what crawler activity looks like. If you have high densities of living gloomy scale, consider a dormant oil treatment at the appropriate time.

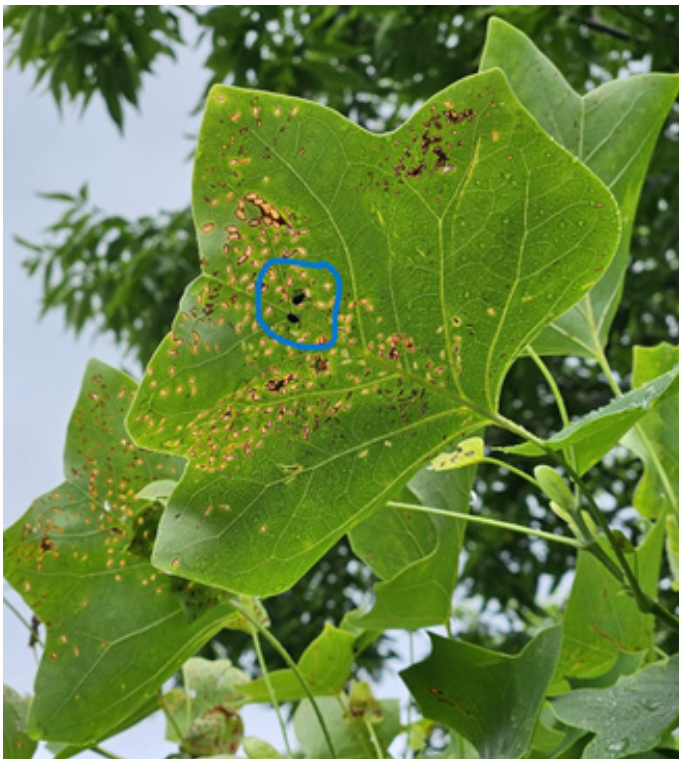
Close up view of gloomy scale on the bark of red maple. Note the soft bodied scale insect with its protective waxy cover removed. Also note the characteristic small black "caps" (1st instar covers) just off center of the scale cover.
Photo: Matt Bertone, NCSU

Yellow Poplar Weevil: Adults are still feeding on trees

By: Paula Shrewsbury

We put out a Special IPM Alert on the native yellow poplar weevil (YPW), *Odontopus calceatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) that is outbreaking on magnolias and tulip poplars and causing significant damage to the newer foliage on June 11th. Reports of YPW adult activity and damage in nurseries and landscapes continue to come in. This week YPW was reported by Virginia Brace on tulip poplars at Waterford Park in Frederick, MD, and from Kenton Sumpter, MDA, on tulip poplars in Thurmont and Smithsburg, MD. Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant, found adult weevils and damage on magnolia in VA and tulip poplar in Beallsville, MD this week.

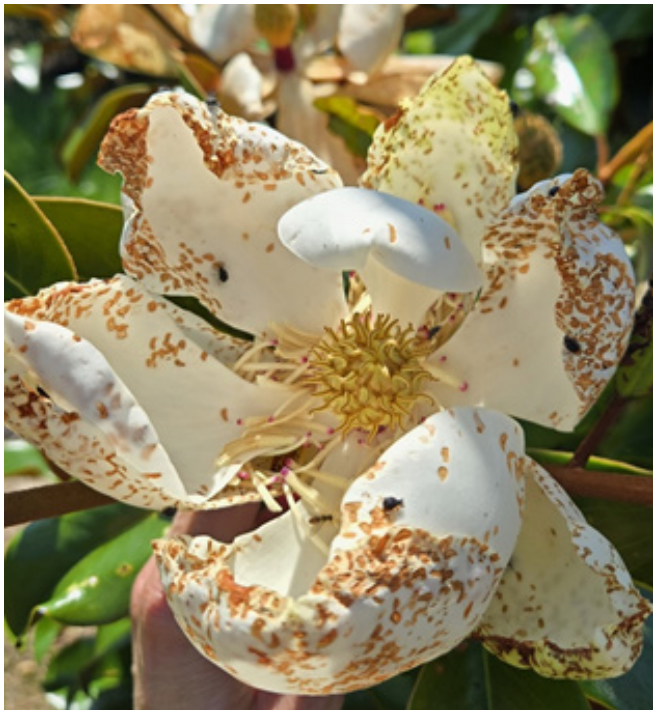
If you find yellow poplar weevil, let us know (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu). Try to include the host plant, life stage, location and date. Email pictures if possible. **Please monitor for blotch-type leaf mines caused by the larval stage of YPW and send pictures if you think you have them.** See the images so you know what to look for.



Feeding damage to tulip poplar by adult yellow poplar weevils, *Odontopus calceatus*. Two weevil adults are in the blue circle.
Photo: Virginia Brace

Management: Larger landscape trees with YPW will show feeding damage but it does not appear extensive enough to affect the health of the tree. If you have small

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: Joe Boggs, OSU Extension



Feeding damage to a *Magnolia* g. 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' flower from adult yellow poplar weevils, *Odontopus calceatus*. I see at least 4 weevils on this one flower.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant

landscape or nursery magnolias, tulip poplars, or sassafras being damaged by YPW, then you should consider control measures. Pyrethroids, such as bifenthrin, have been shown to work on adults. However, pyrethroids are very hard on beneficials and several parasitoids of YPW are known. Try a product that is easier on beneficials. 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. At the end of the season, be sure to rake up and remove all the fallen leaves under infested trees.

Red Thread in Turf

Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc., reports that red thread infections are still occurring in turf this week in Reisterstown. Red thread thrives under wet and low nitrogen conditions. Enhancing nitrogen fertility can help suppress the disease, alongside proper watering practices to improve air circulation and reduce surface moisture. Red thread is usually only active early in the season and then in the fall. Chemical applications are not recommended.

Red thread infection in turf.
Photo: Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc.

Annual Cicada Activity Has Started

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Joel Patton, Montgomery County Master Gardener, reported the first adult annual cicada (aka dog day cicada) of the season. It was found on a Chaste Tree in Montgomery County, MD on June 21st.

Annual cicadas get their name because they emerge annually, not because they develop in one year. The life cycle of annual cicadas takes anywhere from 2-5 years to complete from egg to adult; however, the generations overlap so every year annual adult cicadas emerge. Annual cicadas are active in the summertime (~late June to September), whereas periodical cicadas are active in the spring. Annual cicadas are large with green eyes and have a green venation in their wings. They have sucking mouthparts and use their saw-like ovipositor to insert eggs into tree branches. They occur in much lower numbers than periodical cicadas resulting in far less oviposition scars to trees and far less "noise" from the males calling the females. Some people like the sound of annual cicadas, it means it is summertime. Annual cicadas do not warrant control measures. Cicada killer wasps become active when adult annual cicadas, they main prey, are active. See the Beneficial of the Week about cicada killer wasps.

An annual cicada adult found in Mont. Co.,MD.
Photo: Joel Patton, Montgomery County Master Gardener

See Mike Raupp's Bug of the Week blog for more images and videos of annual cicada emerging, singing, and more.

Case-bearing Leaf Beetle – Pretty Cool

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Miri Talabac, UME HGIC, shared a few images sent in through Ask Extension by someone who wanted to know what this was on their plant. Miri and I determined it is the larva of some type of case-bearing leaf beetle (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae, subfamily Cryptocephalinae or Lamprosomatinae). It is a very interesting group of leaf beetles where their larvae make protective "cases" from frass (fecal matter). The process starts with the mother beetle wrapping her egg with plates of fecal matter that she makes. When the egg hatches, the young larva opens the "roof" of the fecal case, sticks out its head and legs, and then flips the case onto its body. As the larvae feed and develop they add their own fecal matter to the case enlarging it. They pupate inside the fecal case and when ready adults pop open the "roof" and crawl out, feed, mate, and start the cycle over again. I would love to watch all that happen.

Larva of a case-bearing leaf beetle. Note the legs of the leaf beetle larvae sticking out from under the fecal case. Photo: from Miri Talabac, HGIC, AskExtension client photo

Larva of a case-bearing leaf beetle. You can see the layers of fecal matter that the larva continues to add to as it develops, enlarging the protective case. Photo: from Miri Talabac, HGIC, AskExtension client photo

It's That Scarab Beetle Time of Year

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Scarab (Family Scarabaeidae) beetle adult activity has picked these last few weeks. The immature stages of scarab beetles are known as white grubs. The amount of damage caused by adult and immature scarabs varies with species, and other factors such as environmental conditions and management practices. Of the scarab beetle adults, Japanese beetles are usually the most damaging. That's not to say, however, that other scarab adults can't be particularly abundant and damaging some years. Let's review a bit about the adults of the different common scarab beetles. To see pictures of adult and white grub scarab beetle species that frequent our area, go to: http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/pdf/2510.pdf

Japanese beetle and **Oriental beetle adults** are relatively similar in their life cycles and management. Japanese beetles have been reported the last few weeks (see IPM Report, June 20, 2025), and I saw my first Oriental beetle on Tuesday in Columbia, MD. Japanese beetle adults skeletonize foliage and can cause significant damage to many species of ornamental plants (over 300), most commonly linden trees and roses. Oriental beetles are usually less conspicuous and less damaging than Japanese beetles. I often find Oriental

beetles feeding on the flower petals of many herbaceous plants. They seem to particularly like Shasta daisies and cone flowers. Oriental beetles usually do not warrant control. Japanese beetles often require control measures, especially in outbreak years.

Control: Research has shown that once Japanese beetles start feeding on plants the plant releases a chemical cue that calls in other Japanese beetles to the plant. A good practice is to stop Japanese beetles as soon as you see them, before they do much feeding damage and attract their friends. Even if there are relatively small amounts of skeletonization damage on leaves, I suggest you remove those leaves. If you do not have "lots" of plants to manage, you can try hand removing beetles. I suggest a 16 oz Solo type plastic cup half filled with water and a teaspoon or so of dish liquid. Place the cup under the leaf the beetles are on because when you go to grab the beetles they usually "drop" from the plant (it might take some practice to get good at this game). Chemical controls are also available. Products with Neem are classified as low risk, short residual products. Studies have found these are effective, but they usually must be applied every 4 or so days. Other options are the systemics such as those in the diamide group that include chlorotraniliprole (Acelepryn), cyantraniliprole (Mainspring), or cyclaniliprole (Sarisa). Acelepryn has been found to be affective for Japanese beetle adult control 3-4 weeks and is listed as a "reduced risk" pesticide by EPA. It has been shown to not be toxic to honey bees. Mainspring and Sarisa do have a bee warning on the label. There are also other labeled products available. Be sure if you are considering applying pesticides to flowering plants, or areas where flowering plants are nearby, to read the labels carefully. It is often required that you wait until after flower to apply many pesticides to protect pollinators or natural enemies.

Japanese beetle adult and feeding damage.
Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Oriental beetle feeding (and pooping) on coneflower flowers.
Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Green June beetle adults have not been reported yet this season. Adult beetle emergence is estimated to be at 1539 DD accumulations. In the summary of DD accumulations at the end of this IPM Alert, DD accumulations range from 1253 DD and 1842 DD. I would expect some areas seeing green June beetle activity soon. Green June beetles are large metallic green and gold scarab beetles. They are often seen swarming around trees (often those with thin skinned fruits that the beetles feed on) or over turfgrass where they are likely looking for mates or a site to lay their eggs. As adults, these beetles seldom warrant control measures, except in golf course environments due to their behavior of burrowing in the soil.

Asiatic garden beetle adults are tricky little guys. This week David Lantz, found Asiatic Garden beetles in a pool filter (along with other scarab beetles) in Washington County, MD.

From experience, research and monitoring, I knew Asiatic Garden beetles cause defoliation damage to buddleia (butterfly bush) sunflowers, etc. Asiatic Garden beetle adults are nocturnal – only active at night. If you are trying to figure out what is defoliating your plants by monitoring during the day, you won't. You must go out at night around 9:30 p.m. to see these beetles on your plants. During the day they hide in turf and grassy areas near their food plants and largely go unnoticed. At night when temperatures are below 70°F the beetles fly very little. On warmer nights, like we have had many of lately, you can see hundreds of beetles flying around and feeding on plants, especially in July and August. Most interestingly, they usually become active around 9:30 p.m. or so like clockwork. Their time of activity is that specific. These beetles are also attracted to lights so large numbers can accumulate at outdoor lights. Asiatic garden beetle adults feed on about 100 species of plants but seem to like butterfly bush, boxelder, cherry, sunflower, and more. They do not skeletonize like Japanese beetle. Asiatic garden beetles often defoliate most leaves leaving behind only the mid-vein. Their occurrence in high numbers is patchy and localized so they often do not warrant control (unless you have or are managing plants they like, and the beetles are in that area). Reducing weedy habitat can reduce Asiatic Garden beetle densities. Hand collecting the beetles and dropping them into a cup of soapy water should work on these beetles too. Otherwise, management is like that of Japanese beetle adults.

Green June beetle adult feeding on cherry. Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD


Asiatic garden beetle feeding on butterfly bush at night. Photo P. M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Masked chafer beetle adults have been showing up recently. There are two species of masked chafers that occur in this area, the northern and southern masked chafers. They have similar life cycles. Adults are also nocturnal and have similar activity to the Asiatic Garden beetle. The adult masked chafers, however, don't feed so no worries about the adults of this one

May/June beetles were also found by David Lantz in Washington County, MD this week. Do you ever hear something at night in the dark buzzing and/or bouncing into walls, windows, doors, etc. That would be May/June beetles. I heard these bangs on my windows start about one week ago. These beetles are about 0.5-1.0" in size. Adults feed on flowers or foliage of trees and shrubs at night but seldom cause enough damage to warrant control measures, except on the occasional year when populations are higher than normal.

Bald-faced Hornets and Their Nest

By: Paula Shrewsbury

John Stuart, Montgomery County DOT, located the first bald-faced hornet activity and nest reported this season. The papery nest was found in the Aspen Hill area of Montgomery County, MD. Bald-faced hornets can aggressively defend their nest if they sense it is threatened. So be sure to keep your distance. If you encounter a bald-faced hornet nest and the nest is not likely to be encountered by people or pets, you may simply leave it alone. These wasps help reduce populations of pest insects such as caterpillars and other pests. However, if the nest is in a place that threatens you, children, or pets, you should consider eliminating it. Commercial pest control operators can assist you in this. Also from John Stuart: "If any readers of the weekly IPM report should encounter a bald-faced hornet nest in a county Right of Way Tree *in Montgomery County*, that they feel is a hazard it can be reported to 311 via landline or 240-777-0311 from cell phone." I imagine other counties may have similar programs.

For more information on bald-face hornet biology, life cycle, and their nests click here.

A bald-faced hornet's nest are usually, but not always, found in trees.
Photo: John Stuart, Montgomery County Department of Transportation

A bald-faced hornet collecting fibrous material to use for building its nest.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

Spotted Lanternfly Update – 4th instars nymphs

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Spotted lanternfly (SLF, *Lycorma delicatula*) are mainly 4th instar nymphs this week. Anna Simons, Maxalea Nursery, reported 4th instars this week at Penn Station Baltimore, Tom Boardman observed them in west Laurel, MD, Josh Yospyn found 4ths on porcelain berry in Kensington, MD, John Austin, McHale / Green Gardens, reported SLF 4th instar nymphs on a deck in Adamstown, MD. A heavy population of 4th instar SLF were reported by Samantha Garner, Garner Exteriors, at a residence's property in Calvert County, MD on June 23rd. See the image of a sticky trap that had been up for 24 hours in this location.

No SLF adults have been reported at this time. SLF adult activity usually occurs in July with **around 1112 DD**. Most areas of MD are beyond 1112 DD, so I am surprised we have not seen any SLF adults yet. **Jessica Boyle, MDA, informed me their Pestcast system predicts adult SLF by July 4th.**

If you find adult SLF, please let us know (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu) and include the date, location, plant, and a picture if possible.

Sticky band trap for spotted lanternfly that was left up for only 24 hours I Calvert County, MD. That is a lot of 4th instar lanternflies!
Photo: client of Samantha Garner, Garner Exteriors (with permission)

Mottled Discoloration on Crape Myrtle Foliage

Last week, Miri Talabac, UME-HGIC, sent in photos of crape myrtle foliage showing discoloration on the foliage. Miri noted that the "symptoms are on two separate trees in the same landscape (same growing conditions), 20+ years old, variety 'Tonto'. Hardly any crapemyrtle aphids were found on the leaves, and the trees have not had CMBS." We asked if anyone has seen this issue before.

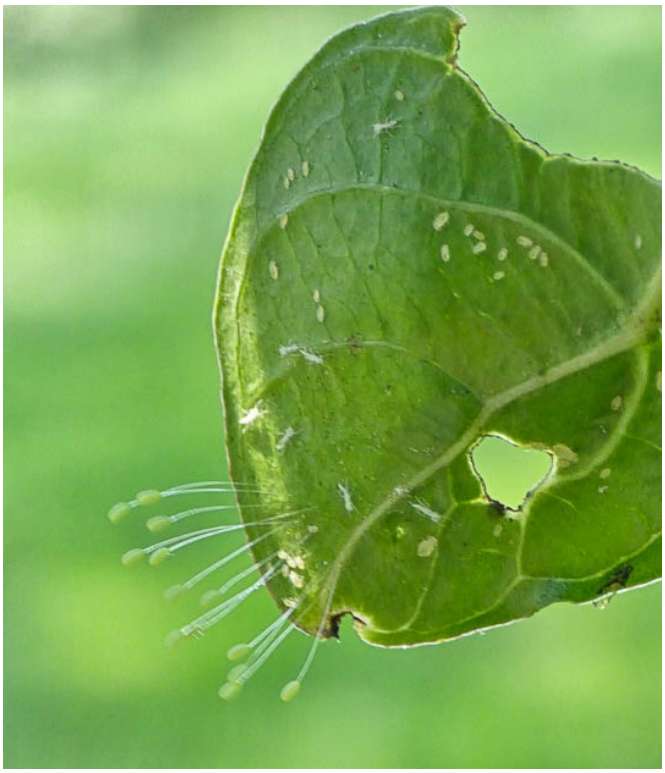
Andrew Loyd, Bartlett Tree Experts, sent the following response: "I have seen the symptoms in the crape myrtle photos in NC and other areas. I reviewed an article a few years ago that described a watermelon mosaic virus on crapemyrtle with very similar symptoms. I never tested the ones in the states with their protocol, but seems similar enough to screen. Here is the disease note: https://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/epdf/10.1094/PHP-08-22-0079-BR"

Testing would need to be done to confirm if these symptoms are caused by watermelon mosaic virus.
Photos: Miri Talabac, UME-HGIC

Lacewing Eggs

Ben Morris, SavATree, found a cluster of lacewing eggs on a crape myrtle leaf that was infested with crapemyrtle aphids. Sheena O'Donnell, UME, found a large group of lacewing eggs, also on a crape myrtle, but this time on a plant infested with crapemyrtle bark scale. Lacewings are a generalist predator that feed on a wide variety of small insects. The eggs are laid on a silk stem so when they hatch, they are less likely to feed on each other before spreading out to find other prey.

When these lacewing eggs hatch, there will be plenty of crapemyrtle barks scale to eat.
Photo: Sheena O'Donnell, UME



These lacewings eggs are on crape myrtle leaf with a good food source of aphids for the larvae when they hatch.
Photo: Ben Morris, SavATree

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Cicada killers look scarier than they are

This past week we received the first report of an annual (aka dog day) cicada adult of the season. Keeping in biological synchrony, Thursday I saw my first cicada killer wasp *Sphecius speciosus*, (Sphecidiae) which is a predator of annual cicadas. Fortunately, this rather large (females are ~1 ½ - 2", males are smaller) and somewhat intimidating looking wasp is only dangerous if you are an annual cicada. The songs of the male cicadas are loud, and the cicada killer wasps are abundant, and the males are busy defending their territory. Let the show begin.

Cicada killers are solitary wasps (they do not have colonial nests like honeybees or bumble bees), although you are likely to find several solitary "nests" or galleries in the ground in the same area. Nests are common in areas where soils are dry and somewhat sandy, and turf is often thin with bare spots. This is why golfers who spend time near sand traps, optimal cicada killer habitat, are familiar with these large wasps. A single female wasp constructs a nest in the ground that contains a main gallery which can be up to a foot deep and have several chambers or brood cells running off it. You will see a pile of sandy soil pushed out of the hole and piled near the

hole. In each of the brood chambers the female will rear an individual larva or progeny. The female cicada killer will mate, build a ground chamber, and then search trees for cicadas. When she finds a cicada, she stings it to paralyze it, straddles the cicada grabbing it with her legs, and returns the paralyzed cicada to her nest (usually during July and August). She drags the paralyzed cicada into one of the brood chambers where she then lays an egg on the cicada. An interesting aspect of cicada killer wasp biology is that if the adult female wants to produce female progeny, she stocks the chamber with 2 cicadas, whereas she will leave only 1 cicada to produce a male. It is not known for sure, but it is likely this decision is related to prey availability: the more cicada prey, the more wasps will choose to make females (2 cicada adults / chamber). The egg hatches, the larva feeds, develops, and pupates over the remainder of the summer / fall and into the next spring. When the annual cicadas become active next July, a new generation of adult wasps will emerge and begin the cycle again. Cicada killer adults feed on flower nectar and tree sap.

A cicada killer burrow with its associated pile of sand, which leads to underground chambers that are supplied with cicadas for immature cicada killer wasps to feed upon.
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

It is often the male cicada killers that are seen flying over the turf / sandy area. Males emerge before females, are territorial, and will defend their territory, which is a location that is likely to have females and their burrows and fend off other males who might try to mate with "their" female. They very actively defend their territory. It is defending their territory behavior that often freaks some people out. The male cicada killer seems to fly at you and watch you. Only female cicada killers have stingers (modified ovipositors). Male cicada killers do not have stingers, they have pseudo-stingers which are much smaller and do not have venom. The only "stings" I know of is when a person is working in the yard and unknowingly kneels or steps on a cicada killer wasp hole in the ground with the female in it. Cicada killers are not aggressive to humans.

A male cicada killer wasp adult perched on the tip of an azalea branch while guarding his territory to keep other males away.
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Because of the fear factor associated with these large wasps, even though they are predators, many people do not want them in their yards. There are several chemicals that are available that can be used to "dust" the burrow holes of the cicada killers. It is the texture, exposure, and drainage of your soil and thickness of your lawn that attracts a new crop of cicada-killers to your lawn each year. If you have the optimal habitat, they will come. A more long-term management strategy is to alter the habitat to make it less favorable for cicada killer wasps such as improving the density of the turf and soil quality. Keeping the soil moist will discourage females from building nests in these sites. Cicada killer wasps are natural enemies of annual cicadas, although I do not consider them directly beneficial since annual cicadas themselves are not really "pests" of our plants.

For a great YouTube on cicada killer wasps, click here.

For more information see:
https://bugoftheweek.squarespace.com/blog/2013/1/4/the-killing-fields-dog-day-cicadas-itibicen-sppi-and-cicada-killer-wasps-isphecius-speciosusimissing-link-and-vid

Weed of the Week
By: Chuck Schuster

Temperatures have gotten warm. It is very hot for most of Maryland. Many weeds seem not to be as affected during these extreme conditions. Remember that if plants are not actively growing, many of the systemic herbicide products do not work well.

The weed of the week for this week is common salsify, oyster plant or goat's beard, *Tragopogon dubius.* It is a biennial found in landscapes, nurseries, orchards and farm settings in both the Western and Eastern United States. It is native to Eurasia and is now found throughout much of North America. It is edible, with the roots having a oyster like flavor or taste. It is very important to note that a similar plant, *Aruncus dioicus*, also called goat's beard, is a perennial, and it is toxic.

Photos 1 and 2 courtesy of Angela Burke

Photo 3 – Oregon State Weed ID.

Common salsify is a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae) and has several variations. They will have yellow or purple flowers. The leaves are more grass like, while the *Aruncus dioicus* will have more fern like leaves.

It has the appearance of being a grass with long narrow leaves, reaching up to twelve inches long and only one quarter inch wide. During the first year, plants remain in the rosette form. During the second year the plant produces erect, leafy stems that are round, smooth and can grow up to thirty-six inches in height. Each stem will terminate with a single flower at maturity. At this stage they are grass like. These plants begin blooming in late spring through mid- summer. Flowers originate from long flower stems during the second year; buds are three

quarters to one- and one-half inch in length, it produces a yellow flower and a puff-ball seed head that can be three to four inches in diameter. Below each flower head will be found ten or more green pointed, slender leaf like bracts that are longer in length than the flower. The flowers will open early in the day, follow the sun and close mid-day. The cross section of the upright stem will be triangular. Seeds are dispersed by wind. The root structure is a taproot, and as with all plant parts, emits a milky sap when cut. This plant prefers dry soils in most cases.

Control of this plant may be accomplished with soil disturbance, cultivation. Any time soil is disturbed may lead to other weeds germinating. No pre-emergent products are listed for this plant. Mowing will prevent the seed heads from developing which prevents future plants. Chemical control of this weed can be accomplished through the use of post emergent non-selective herbicides that contain glyphosate and Glufosinate. Use caution with these products as they can cause damage to desired species of plants. Vinegar and fatty acid soap-based herbicides are more effective in the first year but will require more than one application. Combinations of 2, 4D and Dicamba have been shown to provide control in turf areas.

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Spigelia marilandica, also known as Indian pinks, is an herbaceous perennial that thrives in the southern parts of Maryland in USDA zones 5-9. Although this plant prefers to grow in moist, organically rich soils, it can be very drought tolerant and can thrive in wet soils once established. These shade loving plants can grow 1-2 feet tall with the 2–4-inch glossy green leaves attached opposite each other up the stems. The flowers bloom in cluster on one side of the stems, with 2-12 upwardly facing bright red tubular flowers. Each flower is bright yellow inside with the tips flaring at the top to form a 5-pointed yellow star. When in bloom, its flowers attract hummingbirds. There are no serious insect or disease pests.

***Spigelia marilandica* does well in dappled to full shade.**
Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

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 **1253 DD** (Greater Cumberland) to **1842 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.

Spotted lanternfly – first adult activity **(1112 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)**
White prunicola scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(1637 DD)**
Obscure scale – egg hatch / crawler **(1774 DD)**
Spotted lanternfly – egg laying **(1825 DD)**
Orangestriped oakworm – egg hatch / early instar **(1917 DD)**
Magnolia scale – crawler **(1938 DD)**
Fall webworm – egg hatch / early instar (2nd gen) **(1962 DD)**
Maskell scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2035 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 25, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	1424	Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	1531
Belcamp (FS836)	1326	College Park (KCGS)	1505
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	1461	Ellicott City	1374
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	1579	Frederick (KFDK)	1355
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	1431	Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	1253
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	1328	Millersville (MD026)	1434
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	1743	Perry Hall (C0608)	1307
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	1440	St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	1842
Westminster (KDMW)	1595		

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

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

July 30, 2025
IPM Scouts' Diagnostic Session (afternoon)
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

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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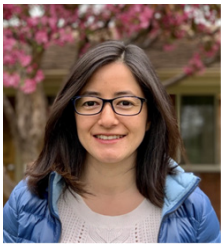

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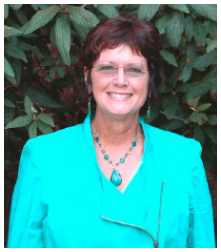

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