UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TPM/IPM Weekly Report
for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

Commercial Horticulture **August 8, 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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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)
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Design, Layout and Editing: Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)

Hawthorn Lace Bugs on Amelanchier

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Luke Gustafson, Davey Tree Experts, found active hawthorn lace bug, *Corythucha cydoniae* (Hemiptera: Tingidae), and damage on *Amelanchier* in Catonsville, MD on August 4th. This is the second report on hawthorn lace bug in recent weeks. Hawthorn lace bug feeds on many plants in the Rosaceae family. In addition to Amelanchier, they are commonly found in high densities on cotoneaster, pyracantha, and hawthorns. Monitor for diagnostic white stippling on the upper side of the foliage and black fecal spots on the undersides, and signs of active lace bug stages and shed skins. There are four generations a year.

The underside of an *Amelanchier* leaf showing hawthorn lace bug, *Corythucha cydoniae*, adults and damage.
Photo: Luke Gustafson, Davey Tree Experts

Management: If lace bug densities and damage are high and controls are warranted use properly labeled systemic chemicals such as flupyradifurone (Altus, an EPA reduced risk product),

chlorantraniliprole (Acelypryn), acetamiprid (Tristar), or acephate. Contact products such as horticultural oil or neem oil should be directed so that the underside of foliage where lace bugs feed is thoroughly covered.

The upper side of *Amelanchier* leaves showing hawthorn lace bug, Corythucha cydoniae, stippling and discoloration damage. Photo: Luke Gustafson, Davey Tree Experts

Bald Cypress Rust Mite Activity

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener, found bald cypress rust mite, *Epitrimerus taxodii* (Eriophyidae), (a.k.a. swamp cypress rust mite) on bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, in a nursery on August 5th. A few years ago, I found the eriophyid mites on bald cypress in the landscape at Hood College. Bald cypress is the only reported host of bald cypress rust mite. This rust mite is extremely small and can just be seen with a 10x hand lens. They overwinter in bark crevices and move onto new needles in the spring. They infest and feed on needles throughout the season undergoing multiple generations. Feeding damage from their sucking mouthparts causes needles to discolor turning yellow to bronze to reddish brown. The first indication of an infestation of bald cypress rust mite is the tree appears off color and looks like it might be suffering from nutrient deficiency. Upon closer examination under magnification, you will see thousands of active mites and white shed skins.

Bald cypress rust mite damage on bald cypress showing discoloration. Photo: Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener

Recommendations: Bald cypress is sensitive to horticultural oils, and they are not recommended. Applications of carbaryl (Sevin), or abamectin (Avid), or insecticidal soap should control the mites. Good coverage of upper and lower sides of the needles is necessary. Try to conserve predators such as predatory mites known to feed on bald cypress rust mites.

Resource for additional information:
https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/bald-cypress-rust-mite-1

Magnified image of bald cypress rust mites.
Photo: J.R. Baker, NCSU

White shed skins of bald cypress rust mite, and one active mite.
Photo: J.R. Baker, NCSU

Hibiscus Sawfly

By: Suzanne Klick

Ross Fornaro, NaturaLawn of America, found an hibiscus sawfly adult this week in Hanover, PA. We often found larvae feeding on *Hibiscus moscheutos* plants at our former research center location. Early instar larvae create small holes in the foliage. As the larvae molt and increase in size, their feeding causes the skeletonization of the leaves. There are multiple generations of hibiscus sawfly throughout the season. If control is necessary, spinosad (Conserve) and horticultural oil are good options. When using horticultural oil, it is important to get good coverage of the foliage.

Look for hibiscus sawfly adults on hibiscus foliage and other plants in the mallow family.
Photo: Ross Fornaro, NaturaLawn of America

If present in high numbers, hibiscus sawfly larvae can eventually cause significant skeletonization damage on foliage.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Dogwood Sawfly are Defoliating Dogwoods

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Image showing waxy instars and the non-waxy last instar larvae of the dogwood sawflies.
Photo: Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension

Charlotte Enfield, Davey Tree, found numerous mid-late instar white waxy dogwood sawfly larvae, *Macremphytus spp.*, on Redosier dogwood in Ellicott City, MD on August 1st. There was heavy defoliation on the dogwood. Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care, also found larvae in Lancaster, PA on July 31. Interestingly, there are actually 3 species of dogwood sawfly, *M. testaceus*, *M. semicornis*, and *M. tarsatus*. Fortunately, they all have similar life history characteristics. They have one generation per year, feed on multiple species of dogwood, they are mid-season pests that can severely defoliate their host tree, and late instar larvae will wander off the plant to find soft, often rotting wood to pupate in. There are several larval instars which vary in the type of damage they cause and their appearance. Newly hatched larvae are a reddish-orange color, and the following instars are covered with a very white waxy material, except the final instar which is yellow with black markings.

In MD, newly hatched larvae are often seen early to mid-June and feed in clusters cause skeletonization damage to dogwood foliage. Late instar larvae can completely defoliate leaving only the midvein of leaves behind and most often noted in July in MD.

Recommendations: Treating dogwood sawfly when they are young is optimal. If you have sawflies this year, start to monitor next year in early-mid June. Later instar larvae, like are active now, can be hand-removed or knocked into a container of water with a little dish soap to kill them, or branches with large numbers can be pruned out. Other options include treating them with chemicals such as spinosad or azadirachtin. Synthetic pyrethroids can be used but they are very hard on natural enemies. For early instar larvae, horticultural oil and insecticidal soap can be effective.

Click here for a video of dogwood sawfly (by Mike Raupp, UMD)

Defoliation by mid-late instar larvae of dogwood sawfly.
Photo: Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension

Late instar larva of dogwood sawfly on wood looking for a place to pupate.
Photo: Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension

Spotted Lanternfly Adult Management

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Spotted lanternfly adults are active and there are many locations that have very high densities. Below are recommendations and options (based on research from various sources) for SLF management. These are listed below and were in past IPM Alert issues. I would like to know if some of you are using other tactics or chemicals for control of adults in nurseries or landscapes. I have heard some mention flypyradifurone (Altus) or carbaryl. **Please let us know if you are using other control options, what they are, and how well they are working (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu).**

High numbers of spotted lanternfly adults on the trunk of tree-of-heaven showing honeydew and sooty mold. Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD

What can be done about SLF adults?

Non-chemical options. Although SLF has a wide host plant range, tree-of-heaven is one of its more commonly used host trees. **Removing tree-of-heaven** may help to reduce SLF populations. Go to *https://extension.umd.edu/resource/tree-heaven/* for information on how to identify tree-of-heaven and proper removal strategies. Note that just cutting tree-of-heaven down will result in growth of numerous suckers. In the last IPM Alert we discussed the use of circle traps and other traps for **trapping SLF**. If sticky traps are used, be sure to use ones that exclude non-target organisms. There is a suite of generalist **natural enemies** that feed on SLF. Conserve natural enemies, when possible, by reducing pesticide use or toxicity and creating environments that favor natural enemies.

Chemical controls. As already mentioned, SLF do not kill most plants so only use chemicals when SLF damage is significant and spot treat only in those areas. Short-residual products, for example those that contain neem oil or natural pyrethrums, will reduce populations and have reduced impacts on natural enemies. Repeated applications may be necessary. Many landscapers and other professionals use systemic products such as dinotefuran (note neonicotinoids can only be applied by certified pesticide applicators in MD (follow the law). Also use of trap trees is a practice that uses reduced amounts of systemic insecticides, usually dinotefuran, and provides suppression of SLF.

For more detailed information on SLF biology and management options, go to:
https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-guide (include tables of chemical options and non-chemical tactics)
https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven (includes information on using tree-of-heaven as trap trees to reduce SLF populations.
https://extension.umd.edu/resource/spotted-lanternfly-home-gardens/
Spotted Lanternfly in Home and Community Landscapes (UME HGIC)
To report SLF activity in MD go to: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/26f9dbec58674313b1bec03ddb8b5f0e

Oleander Aphids

By: Suzanne Klick

Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care, found oleander aphids on milkweed plants on August 7 in Brownstown, PA. Bill Miller also found these aphids in Bethesda this week. Both Elaine and Bill found an adult lady beetle feeding on them. In Maryland, oleander aphids can be found feeding on the various species of milkweeds. This aphid species can be very difficult to control, so it is good that many predators and parasitoids such as lady beetles, lacewings, syrphid fly larvae, *Aphidoletes* midges, and parasitic wasps feed on this aphid species. A strong spray of water can also help reduce populations.

This adult lady beetle is going after oleander aphids. Photo: Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care

Bald-faced Hornet's Nest

By: Suzanne Klick

Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care, found a bald-faced hornet's nest in a Leyland cypress tree. Be careful if you need to remove the nest. It might be best to hire a professional to do it. If it is out of the way, you can leave it alone. Bald-faced hornets do not reuse the same nest next year.

A bald-faced hornet's nest in a Leyland cypress tree. Photo: Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care

Cicada Killers

By: Suzanne Klick

Ben Morris, SavATree, found a cicada killer that caught its prey. For details on cicada killers, see Paula Shrewsbury's Beneficial of the Week article in the June 27, 2025 IPM Report.

A female cicada killer catching and carting off its cicada prey.
Photos: Ben Morris, SavATree

Wheel Bugs

By: Suzanne Klick

Lucas Kilgore, Bartlett Tree Experts, found in a wheel bug adult preying on a group of yellow-necked caterpillar (*Datana ministra*) on a white oak in Frederick County this week. Wheel bugs are generalist predators that are fouund throughout the summer.

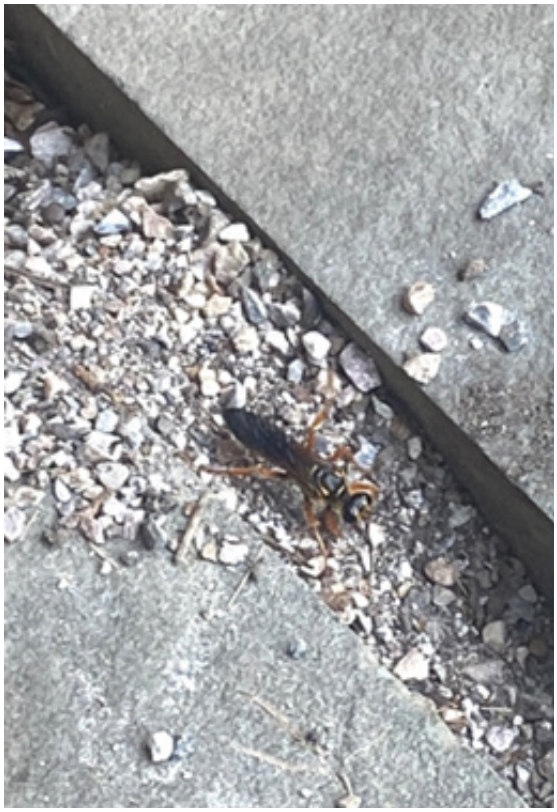
A wheel bug with plenty of options for its next meal.
Photos: Lucas Kilgore, Bartlett Tree Experts

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Great golden digger wasp

About a month ago Mark Dougherty (Chapel Valley Landscape) sent in a picture of a beautiful wasp, the native great golden digger wasp (*Sphex ichneumoneus*, Hymenoptera: Sphecidae), that was digging around a patio area. In MD, the great golden digger wasp adults are usually active June into October. Great golden digger wasps are members of the thread-waisted wasp family, so the segments between the thorax and abdomen are very narrow. They are large wasps, reaching more than an inch in size, and they get their name from the short, golden hairs on their black head and thorax. The back end of the abdomen is black, and the front abdomen (near the thorax) and legs are red-orange color. Be aware that the great golden digger wasp is also a wasp listed as a look-alike to the invasive Asian giant hornet (a.k.a. murder hornet). Click here for a quick identification resource to tell the difference between Asian giant hornet and other hornets or wasps you might see, including the great golden digger wasp.



A great golden digger wasp digging a nest in the sandy soil between patio stones. Photo: Mark Dougherty, Chapel Valley Landscape

The great golden digger wasp is considered a beneficial insect. It provides pollination services, aerates the soil, and is a predator of potential pests. The adult wasp has been observed feeding on nectar from flowers such as spotted beebalm, tall elephantsfoot, or goldenrod. These are solitary wasps, each female digs her own burrow for her young and there is no communal care, but there may be multiple females nesting in the same area. A female wasp digs tunnels in loose, often sandy soils. She digs about six main tunnels with three to 10 side tunnels from each. Great digger wasps hunt long-horned grasshoppers and katydids as prey / food for her young. She stings the prey insect and then carries it back to her tunnels. Before she brings the insect into a tunnel, she has what seems to be a pre-programed behavior of checking all her tunnels to make sure they are all set. She then drags the insect into the tunnel and lays an egg on the abdomen of the insect. Before she leaves, she fills the tunnel with soil and then spends a lot of time moving grass particles and other debris over where her tunnel is, making it impossible to tell that she excavated a home for her young there, and then she leaves. This is a very impressive, and labor intensive, way to protect her young from other predators. When the egg hatches, the wasp larvae have food to feed on. The larvae develop and pupate and emerges the next spring. These wasps are not aggressive and do not go after people who get close to their nest.

A great golden digger wasp adult feeding on nectar from a flower, showing the identifying characteristics of this wasp.
Photo: Richard Crook, MD Biodiversity (CC BY-NC)

If you see a great golden digger wasp, observe its interesting behaviors, and just let it do its thing. It is not aggressive to humans, and it provides ecosystem services such as pollination, predation, and its digging helps to aerate the soil.

See this informative and well-done YouTube showing some very interesting behaviors of the great golden digger wasp: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdFyQJyo3Ps

Weed of the Week

By: Chuck Schuster

Is This Common Ragweed or Goldenrod?

The weather has moderated and plants are liking it! The weather change has been very welcome to many of us. We need to remember that in extreme temperature times we need to adjust some of our working habits. One of our UME colleagues, Emily Zobel, has written on this regulation. https://extension.umd.edu/resource/understanding-marylands-new-heat-stress-standards/

Common Ragweed
Photo: VIrginia Tech Weed Guide

In my recent travels I have noticed some plant material growing along some of the highway edges. I have been lucky and do not seem to be bothered by most plant material pollen. Others of you have not been as lucky. What am I noticing along the road side? It is that time of year when ragweed and goldenrod are starting to show themselves.

Common ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, or goldenrod, *Solidago* species is at this time of year is an important question. Common ragweed is a summer annual found in most areas of the United States. Goldenrod is a perennial and is found in many areas of the United States. Ragweed is of great interest to many of us as the pollen is a common cause of "hay fever" for many. Pollen from ragweed is very small and light in weight, and relies on wind to spread it. This pollen can reportedly travel up to 400 miles. While both are typically found in more rural areas including farm pastures, roadside ditches and waste areas, it will also be found in many landscape beds, and turf areas. Common ragweed prefers poorer quality soils that have not been disturbed and with low fertility levels. In landscape and turf areas maintain soil fertility to promote good plant growth as one line of defense. Goldenrod has nectar and attracts pollinators that will gather the heavy pollen grains. Goldenrod is tolerant to many different soil conditions. Both are members of the Asteraceae family (asters, daisy or sunflower family).

Goldenrod-
Photo: C. Schuster

Ragweed as a summer annual can grow from several inches in height to more than 3 feet in total height. The plant has a shallow taproot, leaves that show hairs on the upper surface. Male and female flowers are found in separate heads on the same plant. Female flowers are in the upper leaves and bases of leaves, while the male flowers are found at the top of the plant. Pollen production stops as temperatures drop below 60 °F. Common ragweed seed can remain viable in the soil for many years, and in one study was found to germinate more than 20 years after harvest. Preventing seed formation is a critical part of both the allergy issue and the next several years plants. A single ragweed plant can produce up to 1 million grains of pollen per year.

Goldenrod seed responds well to stratification. It is a perennial and can be identified by the typical single stemmed and branched top of the plant. Goldenrod can grow to heights of up to 6 feet. It presents with green stems, where ragweed will most often have purple timed stems with lobed fernlike leaves. Goldenrod leaves will not be divided. Goldenrod is not the source of most allergy issues.

Ragweed can be confused with goldenrod. Goldenrod with its large clusters of small yellow flowers is similar to Common Ragweed, but it is not the source of many of our allergic hay fever problems. These flowers will appear from the end of summer until frost.

Cultural control of common ragweed can be obtained in turf settings using regular mowing. Ragweed will not thrive when mowed closer than four inches. Control of common ragweed can be obtained with post emergent use of glyphosate products, Prizefighter, and other organic contact herbicides. Broadleaf pre-emergent materials may not give the desired control, as timing of germination often comes after pre-emergent products are less effective. Use of broadleaf weed post emergent materials including 2,4-D have provided adequate control for turf settings, especially when used early in the season when the plant is actively growing and the leaf tissue is soft to aid in chemical uptake. Goldenrod is grown as a cut flower by many, and is used to provide pollinator habitat in the later part of summer.

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Phlox paniculata 'David' or garden phlox, is a native herbaceous clump-forming perennial that fills the garden with beautiful, fragrant pure white flowers. The 3–4-foot-tall plants grow best in organically rich, well drained soils in full sun to light shade. Good air circulation is always necessary for phlox plants because many of the native varieties are very susceptible to powdery mildew. *P. paniculata* 'David' is always in demand due to its resistance to powdery mildew. Plants are cold tolerant in USDA zones 3-8b and provide nectar to butterflies, hummingbird moths, skippers, sphinx moths, bees and hummingbirds. 'David' has fragrant pure white flowers that are tubular in shape, growing an inch in diameter with 5 flat petal like lobes that slightly overlap. The flowers are arranged in a large, dense, pyramidal clusters on the top of the stiff long stems. Secondary flowers bloom along the stems later in the season. The flowers bloom from July to September and are a wonderful addition to butterfly, cottage, pollinator, and moon gardens. 'David' also mix well with other perennials and other Phlox as an accent plant, to create a border in small groups or as a mass planting. Their stiff stems have medium green lance shaped 3-5-inch-long leaves that taper to a point and grow opposite each other. The plants are tolerant to light deer pressure, clay soils and black walnut roots. Pests include phlox bugs, root rot in wet soils, and spider mites.

Look for blooms of *Phlox paniculata* 'David' from mid to late summer in our area. 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 **2393 DD** (Greater Cumberland) to **3153 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 – egg laying **(mid Sept)**
Magnolia scale – crawler **(1938 DD)**
Fall webworm – egg hatch / early instar (2nd gen) **(1962 DD)**
Maskell scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2035 DD)**
Euonymus scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2235 DD)**
Mimosa webworm – larva, early instar (2nd gen) **(2260 DD)**
Japanese maple scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2508 DD)**
Fern scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2813 DD)**
White prunicola scale – egg hatch / crawler (3rd gen) **(3238 DD)**
Banded ash clearwing borer – adult emergence **(3357 DD)**
Tuliptree scale – egg hatch / crawler **(3472 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 August 6, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	2657
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	2756
Belcamp (FS836)	2538
College Park (KCGS)	2749
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	2664
Ellicott City	2576
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	2831
Frederick (KFDK)	2589
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	2637
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	2393
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	2482
Millersville (MD026)	2640
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	3044
Perry Hall (C0608)	2494
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	2642
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	3153
Westminster (KDMW)	2893

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

August 26, 2025
IPM Scouts' Diagnostic Session (afternoon)
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD
For more information

September 11, 2025
MNLGA Field Day
Location: Raemelton Farm, Adamstown, MD
For more information

September 17, 2025
Urban Tree Summit
https://urbantreesummit.org/
Montgomery Parks and Casey Trees, present the fourteenth annual Urban Tree Summit. Presentations will focus on efforts to preserve the health and welfare of trees in our urban and suburban landscapes

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

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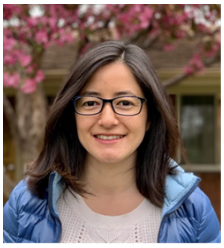
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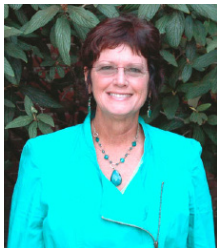
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