UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

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

Commercial Horticulture **September 5, 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)

Upcoming Conferences

The Cut Flower Tour on the Eastern Shore will be on September 24, 2025. The day will start at the Wicomico County Extension Office in Salisbury. We will have presentations and lunch before heading out for the tours. Masterpiece Flowers is located just over the border in Worcester County and Wildwood Lavender Farms is only 15 minutes away from the Extension Office.

Andrew Ristvey has scheduled a program on Operator Certification (FTC) for Writing Nutrient Management Plans for Nurseries, Greenhouses, and Controlled Environments on October 2, 2025 at the Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD

More Programs: Other programs include the MNLGA Nursery Tour at Raemelton Farm, the Montgomery County Parks/Casey Trees Urban Tree Summit, and the FALCAN Annual Truck and Trailer Safety Seminar.

Go to our Conferences' web page to get details and the links to register for these programs.

Fall Armyworm: Monitor your turf

By: Paula Shrewsbury

In last week's report, we reported that Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant, found a newly hatched egg mass of fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), on *Nyssa sylvatica* in Gaithersburg, MD. This tells us that adult fall webworm moths have made their way to MD. The question is how high of the population of fall armyworm made it up this far and will there be significant damage to turf from them. To provide a little more insight I contacted Dr. Alejandro Del Posa, and Extension Specialist from Virginia Tech and asked him what they are seeing in VA. Alejandro's response on Aug 30th was "*Our pheromone-baited traps for fall armyworms just started catching adults last week. And this past week, a landscaping company contacted me indicating that they have treated a couple of lawns due to the presence of fall armyworm caterpillars. We are expecting to see an increase in adult activity during September*".

Later instar fall armyworm caterpillars can quickly consume the turf canopy.
Photo: Curtis Young, OSU Extension

I continue to recommend that you **monitor turf closely for fall armyworm activity**. If we are going to have problems, we should be seeing them this month. **Please let us know if you see fall armyworm and their damage (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu).**

For more details on fall armyworm life cycle, damage, and management go to:
https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/SPES/SPES-357/SPES-357.html
https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1859
https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/armyworms-identification-damage-control-in-turfgrass/

When fall armyworm caterpillar densities are high, they can defoliate lawns.
Photo from: https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/SPES/SPES-357/SPES-357.html

Curled Rose Sawfly Defoliating Roses

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Chrissy Moore, U.S. National Arboretum, found curled rose sawfly larvae on roses. She reported the rose had no leaves left on it. Hand removing the sawflies is likely the best control at this time of year. The curled rose sawfly feeding starts off as skeletonization, then larger pieces of leaf tissue are missing from the leaf edge, and ultimately defoliation of the leaves. In the spring, monitor early to catch the sawflies when they are just starting.

For more information on the Rose sawfly go to:
Bug of the week http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2018/5/21/rosie-defoliators-roseslug-sawfly-iendelomyia-aethiopsi-and-curled-rose-sawfly-iallantus-cinctusi

Early stage rose sawfly damage on roses.
Photo: N. Harding, UMD

Curled rose sawfly late instar larva defoliating rose.
Photo: Chrissy Moore, U.S. National Arboretum

Chrysalises

Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care, found 10 monarch butterfly chrysalises on a plant in Lititz, PA this week. Elaine noted that butterfly weed is nearby. Caterpillars tend to move off their larval host plant and find a secure plant or structure on which to pupate. Now is a fun time of year to look for multiple stages of moths and butterflies.

Multiple monarch chrysalises were found on one plant.
Photo: Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care

Spotted Lanternfly: Egg masses expected in mid-September

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) are expected to start laying the first eggs of the season this month. You should be monitoring for the presence of egg masses. SLF will continue to lay eggs until the first hard frost which will kill the adults. Recent research has shown that ~ 50% of egg masses laid on trees are in reach of people. Therefore, a control tactic is to remove egg masses before they hatch in the spring (by late April). For details on how to effectively find and remove egg masses go to: https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-guide

If you see SLF egg masses, please email us (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu) and let us know the date found, where, and on what plants.

Erin Holden, U.S. National Arboretum, observed a yellow jacket feeding on an adult SLF (see image). Go biological control!

See the SLF Update in the 7/18/2025 IPM Alert for more information on SLF adult management and links to additional information.

Egg masses of spotted lanternfly on a trunk of a tree. Note that some are covered with a protective covering of a white-grey putty-like material, while others are not covered and you can see the distinct rows of eggs. Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD.

Yellow jacket feeding on an adult spotted lanternfly. Photo: Erin Holden, U.S. National Arboretum

Monitor for Crawlers of Tuliptree Scale and White Prunicola Scale

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Tuliptree scale crawler activity begins around 3472 DD and white prunicola scale crawler activity begins around 3238 DD. This week in MD DD accumulations ranged from 2980 DD (Greater Cumberland) to 3791 DD (St. Mary's City). Be sure to monitor plants with these scales for crawler activity now. Also monitor for the presence of lady beetle predators that feed on scale insects.

If controls are appropriate, there are multiple chemical controls that are available for CMBS suppression. These

include systemics such as dinotefuron but be careful to avoid plants in flower and consider pollinator protection. Contacts such as horticultural oil, neem oil or other labeled products, and insect growth regulators such as pyriproxyfen (ex. Distance or Fulcrum) or buprofezin (ex. Talus). Be sure to follow label directions to protect natural enemies and pollinators and get optimal control. 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.

Black overwinter crawlers and dead brown crawlers of tuliptree scale.
Photo: John Davidson, UMD

White prunicola scale female and eggs exposed when the scale cover was removed. Crawlers will look like eggs but slightly larger with legs and will be moving around.
Photo: Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware, Bugwood.org

Hammerhead Worms

Erin Holden, U.S, National Arboretum, found hammerhead worms at the U.S. National Arboretum last week. Erin noted that "stretched out it was much longer than my hand, so 6”+". Last week, she found two large ones in an irrigation valve box, and this week she found a very tiny one in the same location. Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care, also found a hammerhead worm in a container plant in Fairfax, VA this week. Mike Raupp, UMD, wrote a Bug of the Week article on hammerhead worms on July 24, 2023.

A hammerhead worm in Washington D.C.
Photo: Erin Holden, US. National Arboretum

A hammerhead worm in Fairfax, VA.
Photo: Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Funnel weaving spider webs seem to be everywhere at this time of year!

Fall is the time of year we notice more webs from web-making spiders. With the cool temperatures, the morning dew collects on the strands of a spider's web highlighting their beauty and abundance. Today I will discuss **funnel weaving spiders** which are particularly noticeable due to the abundance of webs that occur near each other. I have seen hundreds of funnel webs, and their spiders, on a single planting of yews (see image) or a relatively small area over ground cover. The common species of funnel weaving spider (also known as grass spiders) that make this type of web around here is *Agelenopsis pennsylvanica* (family: Agelenidae) known as the Pennsylvania grass spider.

Sheet webs with "funnels" made by *Agelenopsis* spiders are particularly noticeable when they pick up the morning dew. Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Agelenopsis pennsylvanicus are about 9-17 mm (~0.4"-0.7") in body length, with females being larger than males. The abdomen is long and tapered and their coloration is a mottled pattern of black-tan-gray. *Agelenopsis* are found in a variety of habitats but mainly near the ground on grass and foliage of plants. At this time of year these spiders are ready to mate. Males will often roam from their webs at night in search of females. You may see them "wondering" on buildings and occasionally inside a home. Interestingly, like other arthropods, female Pennsylvania grass spiders participate in sexual cannibalism, often eating their partner after mating. Research has shown that hungry and aggressive females tend to be cannibals. Moreover, it was found that cannibalistic females made heavier egg cases and the eggs had higher rates of successful hatch. By eating her mate, female grass spiders produce more fit eggs. *Agelenopsis* live about 1 year. Eggs are laid in late summer and early fall following mating. A female can produce more than one egg sac which she attaches to a substrate such as under a rock, on a piece of old wood, or rolled up in a leaf. A single egg sac can contain 50-200 eggs. The females are good parents and guard their egg sacs until the onset of winter when the die. In the spring, hundreds of spiderlings emerge from the egg sacs.

***Agelenopsis pennsylvanica*, funnel weaving spiders sit at the funnel opening of their web waiting for an unsuspecting victim to come by where it then is pounced upon and consumed! Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD**

Each web looks like a sheet of webbing that is about 20-25 cm (8-10") in diameter and has a "funnel" weaved within its web (see image). It is in the opening of the funnel where you will see a *Agelenopsis* spider. You need

to move slowly towards the web to catch the spider staking out the opening of the "funnel". If you startle the funnel weaving spider, it very rapidly retreats down into the funnel (see video by M. Raupp, UMD). *Agelenopsis* spiders spin webs that are dense and non-sticky (they are missing a polymer that is found in strands of silk made by large orb weavers) that allow potential prey to walk on the web and get close to the funnel opening. An *Agelenopsis* spider sits and waits in the funnel opening for an unsuspecting prey item to wander onto its web. In feeling the vibration on its web, *Agelenopsis* then pounces onto the prey pulling it down into its web to enjoy a tasty meal. *Agelenopsis* are opportunistic predators and will eat any insect, spider, or other arthropod that wonders too close. Based on the number of funnel webs in a given landscape, imagine the number of prey items consumed, providing biological control services. Clients should be aware of the biological control service provided by funnel weaving spiders, and that they are not aggressive spiders and retreat when disturbed. Just let the funnel webs be and leave the spiders to do their thing.

Webs with "funnels" made by *Agelenopsis* funnel weaving spiders just over the ground. So many spiders over a small area. Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Weed of the Week

By: Nathan Glenn

(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Virginia creeper is a vigorous perennial vine often admired in landscapes for its ornamental value but notorious for becoming invasive in unwanted places. Found throughout the eastern United States, it thrives along fence lines, in landscapes, under trees, and even climbing on buildings.


Figure 1: Virginia creeper. Photo: Chuck Schuster, UME

Identification

- **Growth habit**: Vining; creeps along the ground or climbs by attaching to surfaces with small adhesive pads
- **Leaves**: Palmately compound, usually with five leaflets (but can vary from three to seven). Each leaflet can be up to 5 inches long with toothed margins. Leaves often emerge reddish and turn deep maroon in fall
- **Look-alike**: Sometimes mistaken for poison ivy. Remember the rhyme: "Leaves of three, let it be; leaves of five, let it thrive."
- **Stems & roots**: Fibrous roots; stems can root at nodes when they contact the soil
- **Flowers & fruit**: Small, greenish-white flowers in late spring, maturing to purple-black berries about ¼ inch across.

Toxicity & Wildlife Value

The berries contain oxalic acid, which can be toxic to humans and mammals if ingested in quantity, occasionally causing serious health issues. However, they are an important winter food source for birds, which helps spread the plant.

Habitat & Climbing Behavior

Virginia creeper climbs with adhesive discs (not penetrating rootlets), which means it attaches securely to masonry walls and fences but does not structurally damage brick or block. Once the vine is cut at the base, the pads naturally deteriorate and release over time. Some individuals may experience mild skin irritation when handling the plant.

Figure 2: Virginia creeper.
Photo: Chuck Schuster, UME

Control

- **Cultural/Mechanical**:
  - Cut vines at the base and pull them off desirable plants or structures.
  - Digging is possible for small infestations, but regrowth from missed roots is common.
- **Chemical**:
  - Spot treatment with glyphosate products applied in late summer or early fall provides effective control.
  - In areas without other desirable landscape plants, 2,4-D-based products labeled for woody perennial control can be used.
  - For vines growing on desirable plants, avoid foliar sprays. Instead, cut stems and carefully paint or brush herbicide onto the cut ends for targeted control.

Quick Tip: Because Virginia Creeper spreads both by rooting at nodes and by bird-dispersed seed, controlling both vines and seed sources is essential to reducing re-establishment.

Figure 3: Virginia creeper.
Photo: Chuck Schuster, UME

Figure 4: Virginia creeper.
Photo: Chuck Schuster, UME

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Eutrochium dubium 'Baby Joe', also known as coastal plain Joe Pye, is a smaller edition of Joe Pye Weed, It grows in clumps 2' - 3' tall and 1'- 2' wide. The plants prefer to grow in full sun to partial afternoon sun and thrive in moist, organically rich soils. 'Baby Joe' has an upright compact habit with strong upright strong, purple spotted unbranched hollow stems. Large domes of tiny bright purple disk flowers grow together, blooming from July to September, attracting butterflies and other pollinators for their nectar. The disk flowers mature into buff-colored seed heads which stay on the stems over the winter attracting some native birds to feed on the seeds during the winter months. These plants are patented and do not grow true from seeds. The deep green 6-inch-long leaves are coarsely toothed and are attached to the strong stems in a whorled fashion. The small size of the plants making them a perfect fit to small gardens, mixed borders, cottage gardens, rain gardens and containers, making sure that the soil is always kept moist. There are no serious pests, and 'Baby Joe' has good resistance to powdery mildew. Plants are tolerant on clay and wet soils and light deer browsing.

The seed heads of *Eutorchium dubium* 'Baby Joe' attract birds during the winter. 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 **2980 DD** (Greater Cumberland) to **3791 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 **(September)**
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 September 3, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3315
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	3384
Belcamp (FS836)	3149
College Park (KCGS)	3375
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	3279
Ellicott City	3170
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	3462
Frederick (KFDK)	3198
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3227
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	2980
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3061
Millersville (MD026)	3259
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	3759
Perry Hall (C0608)	3076
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3237
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	3791
Westminster (KDMW)	3572

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

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

September 24, 2025
Cut Flower Tour on the Eastern Shore
Location: Wicomico County Extension Office and two cut flower operations
For more information

October 2, 2025
Operator Certification (FTC) for Writing Nutrient Management Plans for Nurseries, Greenhouses, and Controlled Environments
Location: Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD

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

A list of Commercial Ornamental Horticulture Conferences from December 2025 through June 2026 is posted to our website on the Conferences' page.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | AgFS Agriculture & Food Systems

Operator Certification (FTC) for Writing Nutrient Management Plans for Nurseries, Greenhouses and Controlled Environments

Thursday, October 2nd, 2025
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Location:
Wye Research and Education Center
124 Wye Narrows Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658

Nursery Operator Certification (FTC) for writing nursery nutrient management plans will be offered to growers who are interested in attaining Farmer Training Certification for writing nutrient management plans. This training program will assist you in writing a nutrient management plan for your nursery or greenhouse operation, or controlled environment. You must write a nursery nutrient management plan if you are an agricultural business and gross $2,500 or more per year in sales. With this certification, you will be able to sign-off and submit your own plan and annual implementation reports.

This program consists of a Training Day and an Exam/Signoff Day. This training day, **Thursday, October 2nd, 2025,** will consist of learning the plan-writing process. After the training day, you will have about 5 weeks, during which time you will study the Nursery Nutrient Management Training Manual and develop your plan. The Exam/Signoff Day will be at a location and on a date "**to be announced"**. This date will also be for reviewing your newly developed plan (or renewing your old plan). You must write a plan for Maryland Dept of Agriculture (MDA) to become certified.

The process is relatively simple for small (or low-risk) operations, so if your operation size is less than 5 acres, we would strongly encourage you to think about becoming a certified operator. If your operation is larger than 5 acres or you run a controlled environment, we would still encourage you to become a certified operator, even though the nutrient management process may be a little more complicated. For nutrient management consultants who wish to learn more about the process for developing nutrient management plans for greenhouses and container crop production, this workshop will offer 6 hours of continuing education credits.

The cost for this program is **$40.00** and includes program costs (including lunch) and the MDA exam fee ($20). For consultants not taking the exam, the cost is **$20**. Payment will be required at the beginning of the program. A check can be made out to ***University of Maryland***. A receipt will be available.

If you wish to register, please do so before **September 26th, 2025** by clicking on this **link**. If you have questions, please send an email to me (aristvey@umd.edu) or call me at 410-827-8056 x113. If you need any accommodations for this program, please contact me by **September 26th**.

Wye Research and Education Center is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, about 20 minutes from the Bay Bridge. A map to WyeREC can be found **here**. Note the circled area on the map; we will be at the WyeREC Office and Lab location.

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

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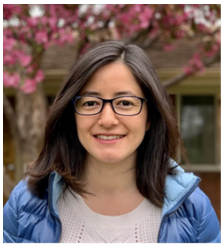

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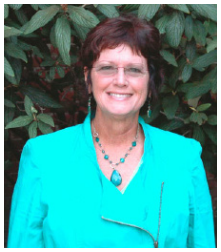

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Thank you to the Maryland Arborist Association, the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association, Professional Grounds Management Society, FALCAN, and USDA NIFA EIP Award # 2024700043556 for their financial support in making these weekly reports possible.