UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

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

Commercial Horticulture **September 12, 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

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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 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.

Cross-striped Cabbage Worm With Parasitoids

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Cross-striped cabbage worms, *Evergestis rimosalis* (Crambidae) feed on kale and other members of the brassica family. There are several parasitoids that attack this caterpillar. The caterpillar in this image has been attacked by an endoparasitoid, likely *Cotesia orobenae* (family Braconidae). These parasitoids are gregarious (multiple larvae develop in one host caterpillar). Larvae develop within the caterpillar but when they are ready to pupate, they chew their way out of the caterpillar and form cocoons on or near their caterpillar host. In the image you can see two parasitoid larvae getting ready to make their cocoons and on white cottony mass that is a cocoon of the parasitoid. Go biological control.

A cross-striped cabbage worm where parasitoid larvae have emerged and begun spinning their cocoons. Photo: Tina MacIntyre

Red-Headed Pine Sawflies and a Praying Mantid

Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care, found red-headed pine sawfly larvae feeding on a mugo pines in Lebanon, PA this week. Elaine also found a Chinese praying mantid feeding on them.

This native sawfly feeds on pines including jack, red, shortleaf, loblolly, Japanese black, and mugo. Other hosts include deodar cedar and Norway spruce. The larvae feed gregariously. A group of larvae can defoliate whole sections of a pine very rapidly in late August to early September. Control: Prune off tip growth on which they are feeding and destroy. Conserve insecticide will also give control.

This Chinese praying mantid is pursuing red-headed pine sawfly larvae (yellow arrow) that are feeding on a Mugo pine. Photo: Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care

Spotted Lanternfly – Adults flying everywhere!

By: Paula Shrewsbury

The MNLGA Field Day at Raemelton Farm in Adamstown, MD held on Thursday was a big success. Those of you who went had the opportunity to experience spotted lanternfly (SLF) adults flying all around, with many of the SLF landing on people. Spotted lanternfly adults are in a flight phase. Soon the adults will move from their flight phase to a phase where they aggregate on the trunks of trees (ex. tree-of-heaven, maple, birch, willow, and others) and begin to lay eggs. Spotted lanternfly (SLF) are expected to start laying eggs sometime this month.

Chinese praying mantids is a generalist predator that will feed on spotted lanternflies. Both are native to Asia. See the video at https://youtu.be/HL9UcEl-Kso?si=3hPHci9T60DJECp_
Photo: Rebecca McWilliams, Maxalea, Inc.

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 type of plant.

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

Oak Lobed Stem Galls

Edward Boss, Smithsonian National Zoological Park, found oak lobed stem galls on white swamp oak in Washington D.C. this week. As reported in the August 29, 2025 IPM report, this gall is caused by a tiny cynipid wasp.

Look for oak lobed stem galls this month.
Photo: Edward Boss Smithsonian

Pennisetum Spreading in Turf

Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc., sent a photo of pennisetum growing in a turf area. This grass spreads to other areas by seed. It grows in dense clumps and tolerates mowing.

Pennisetum spreading by seed into a turf area.
Photo: Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc.

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury and Mike Raupp

Thread-waisted wasps feed and mate… at the same time!

Spotted horse mint, *Monarda punctata*, is an herbaceous perennial that attracts a great diversity of very interesting wasps. These are not the tiny almost invisible parasitoid wasps we have discussed before, but the large predatory wasps such as great black wasps, mason wasps, potter wasps, digger wasps, and more. These wasps are attracted to, and feed on the yummy and nutritious nectar in the flowers of spotted horse mint (and other plants), pollinating the plants in doing so. Today I would like to discuss a thread-waisted wasp in the family Sphecidae and the genus *Eremnophila*, a late season wasp that was busy feeding and mating (sometimes at the same time, see image) on my spotted horse mint. *Eremnophila* are hunters of caterpillars, grasshoppers, and crickets. Interestingly, the wasp adult does not eat these insects. The prey items become food for the wasp's larvae. It takes a lot of energy for the female wasps to hunt and subdue their prey. This requires the females to make frequent visits to flowers for carbohydrate rich nectar – food for the adults. When not feeding on flower nectar, *Eremnophila* seek food for their young. Upon encountering a potential victim such as a juicy caterpillar, the female wasp wrestles with the prey item and delivers a paralyzing sting. The immobilized, but not yet dead, prey is then transported to a subterranean nesting site, where wasp young are reared, and deposited within. An egg deposited by the adult female wasp on the hapless victim hatches into a legless wasp larva that consumes the living but powerless prey. Before leaving her young, the mother carefully arranges pebbles and dirt to disguise the entry to her nest. This probably keeps other insects from robbing her catch or making a meal of her young.

Spotted horse mint, *Monarda punctata*, flowers provide a great food resource for a diversity of beautiful wasp species.
Photo: Michael J. Raupp, UMD

The mating behavior of *Eremnopila* include a prolonged coupling of the happy pair where the male clasps his mate by the "neck" as she moves from flower to flower sipping nectar. It is not unusual to see a pair flying in tandem as the female visit's flowers. These wasps not only like spotted horse mint but also feed on the nectar of goldenrods and other late summer – fall blooming plants, especially in the Aster family. To see a great video (by M.J. Raupp, UMD) of a mating pair of thread-waisted wasps feeding on the nectar of spotted horsemint go to: https://youtu.be/B7GQshC-1wc

Many of the beneficials we discuss in this newsletter use pollen and nectar as a food resource. So keep planting flowers to attract and retain pollinators and natural enemies! If you have fondness for beautiful wasps be sure to plant spotted horse mint.

A mating pair of *Eremnophila*, likely *E. aureonotata*, (thread-waisted wasps) with the male on the top as he holds the female by the neck with his front legs.
Photo: Michael J. Raupp, UMD

An *Eremnophila aureonotata*, thread-waisted wasp, with its captured caterpillar that she will likely bring to her nest to feed her young.
Photo: Ben Burgunder, UMD

Weed of the Week

By: Kelly Nichols

Summer Weed Seed Production

In my travels around the county this week, I've noticed the weed seedheads that are present in unmanaged areas. Part of an integrated weed management strategy is to prevent weeds from going to seed, but will it make a difference if just one weed is left go? Let's look at some examples of weed seed production:

WEED	NUMBER OF SEEDS PER PLANTS
Canada thistle	680 per stem
Giant foxtail	900
Common ragweed	3,500
Velvetleaf	7,800
Dandelion	15,000
Common purslane	52,300
Redroot pigweed	117,400
Large crabgrass (grown in a nursery)	150,000
Common mullein	223,200

One weed producing seeds can make a difference! The seeds from most annual grassy weed (e.g. foxtail, crabgrass) are not viable in the soil for more than a few years. This is much better news than the viability for some of the broadleaf weeds that we deal with; some of these seeds can be viable in the soil for a few decades! For example, it takes 8 years for the velvetleaf seed population in the soil to be reduced by 50% and 56 years to be reduced by 99%. Seed coats play an important role in increasing long-term dormancy. On the flip side, weed seed predators (e.g. beetles) and environmental stress can reduce the number of weed seeds in the soil.

Dandelions produce about 15,000 seeds per plant.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

The best way to reduce the number of weed seeds in the soil is to prevent seed production. For those pesky weed seedheads that made it through, those plants can be pulled and disposed of, if practical. If the seeds are already mature, mowing may just spread them. Take notes now as to where those troublesome areas are and come up with a weed management plan for next year; it's never too late to start!

References
Huerd, S., & Moncada, K. (2010). *Risk management guide for organic producers: Chapter 5 Weed biology*. Regents of the University of Minnesota.

Weed Science Society of America. (n.d.) *About weed seeds and their longevity*. https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Weed-Seed-Factsheet-2016.pdf

Note about last week's weed of the week: Becky Melzer, Montgomery County Parks, noted Virginia creeper is a larval host plant for the Virginia creeper sphinx moth.

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Salvia azurea or blue sage is a native clump-forming herbaceous perennial that thrives in full sun and prefers to grow in moist, well drained soils. It is recommended to trim back the plants halfway in late spring to promote compactness and flopping stems. Plants grow in USDA zones 5-9, reaching heights 3-5 feet tall and 2-4 feet wide. The delicate azure blue, 2-lipped flowers bloom in whorls on spikes from July to October and are attractive to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. In the fall, cut back the stems to 12 to 24 inches tall to attract the native bees to nest in the dead hollow stems. The stems should remain standing until they disintegrate on their own. The green leaves are lance shaped and can grow up to 3-4 inches long. Plants


***Salvia azurea* is a clump-forming, native plant.**
Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

tend to sprawl on the ground if they are growing in rich soil, but the tiny blue flowers are always visible. Blue sage should be planted in pollinator gardens, native gardens and open meadows. They are resistant to deer and rabbit browsing, insect pests, disease and dry soils.

***Salvia azurea* flowers attract a variety of pollinators.**
Photo: 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 **3081 DD** (Greater Cumberland) to **3943 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 10, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3460	Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	3522
Belcamp (FS836)	3277	College Park (KCGS)	3509
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	3414	Ellicott City	3296
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	3596	Frederick (KFDK)	3315
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3350	Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	3081
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3173	Millersville (MD026)	3394
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	3912	Perry Hall (C0608)	3202
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3377	St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	3943
Westminster (KDMW)	3709		

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 17, 2025
Urban Tree Summit
https://urbantreesummit.org/
Montgomery Parks and Casey Trees, present the fourteenth annual Urban Tree Summit.

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 through June 2026 is posted to our website on the Conferences' page.

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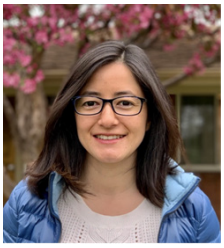

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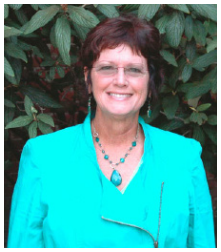

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