UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

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

Commercial Horticulture **October 10, 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:
Paula Shrewsbury, Professor and Extension Specialist in Ornamental and Turf IPM, Department of Entomology, pshrewsbury@umd.edu

Regular Contributors:
Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Paula Shrewsbury and Laura Nixon (Extension Specialists) 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)

Please Note:
There will not be a report next week on October 17, 2025.

Boxwood Leafminer Activity in Cooler Weather – Control Measures?

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Marie Rojas (IPM Consultant) reported on October 1st that boxwood leafminer, Monarthropalpus flavus, larvae were still relatively small. During the heat of the summer the larvae go into an aestivation period and do not feed. In the cooler early fall months that we are experiencing now, the larvae begin to actively feed again, and this is when much of the damage is done to boxwood. As larvae develop, they become bright yellow and overwinter as later instar larvae (see image).

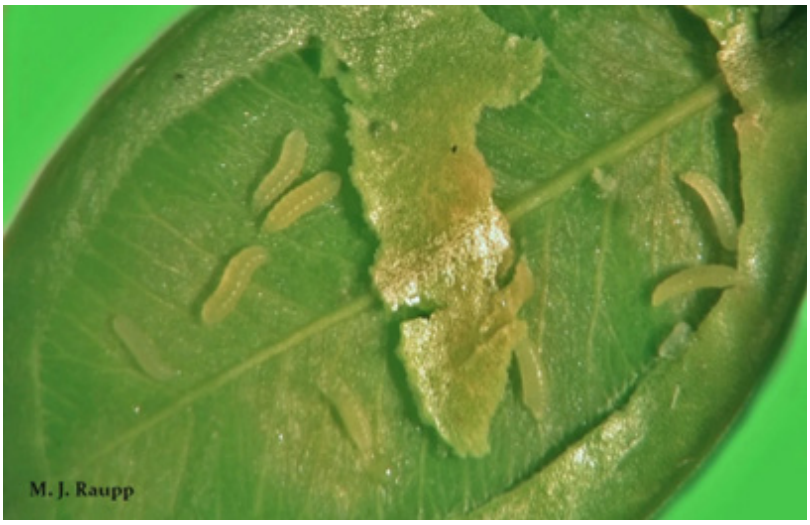
Given that at this time of year leafminer larvae are actively feeding on boxwood foliage, it seems like this should be a time to apply control measures. However, I always struggle to come up with a research-based effective recommendation as to what to apply at this time. Last week I sent a message to a list-serve that is made up of other Extension and research entomologists and asked them “Are there any good recommendations for management measures for boxwood leafminer in the late summer / fall? Any systemics, preferably non-neonicotinoids, that have been shown to work well when applied at this

time?" I received several comments from colleagues and the interesting take-home was that there are not many proven chemical controls for this scenario. Here is a summary of responses as to what worked and did not work:

- Imidacloprid (neonicotinoid) applied as a basal soil drench gave high levels of control of boxwood leafminer when applied in October (90%) or April (99%) (see https://auf.isa-arbor.com/content/43/6/242). The concern when using imidacloprid, especially in a fall application, is whether the product will still be in the boxwood next spring when it flowers and possibly have negative impacts on pollinators. Foliar applications of imidacloprid have also been found to work well.
- Lepitect (acephate) applied as a mid-summer soil injection gave good control in one study and not good control in another study - so mixed results. Acephate is an organophosphate insecticide so applicator safety has should be considered, but it has a shorter residual in the plant so there should be less concern during flowering the next spring.
- Products tested that were found to not be effective include: chlorantraniliprole (see https://auf.isa-arbor.com/content/43/6/242), cyantraniliprole, spirotetramat, and spinosad.

It seems the consensus is if chemical controls are needed that early season applications are often more effective. Mike Raupp, UMD, found that a foliar application of abamectin (Avid) applied early season (around sdult oviposition), gave equal control to imidacloprid. Abamectin is a translaminar material and gives the added benefit of spider mite suppression. Others have found that early season foliar applications of bifenthrin also give good control. A penetrating surfactant should be used.

I have likely not mentioned all labeled products for boxwood leafminer control. This is because I have not seen data on them. If anyone has experience in successful control of boxwood leafminer, please let me know (pshrewsbury@umd.edu). See the April 25, 2025 IPM Alert for more details on the lifecycle and management (including non-chemical measures) of boxwood leafminer.



Late season boxwood leafminer larvae found within a leaf mine on boxwood.
Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD

One of the measured boxwood leafminer larva measured 1.61 mm long on October 3, 2025.
Photo: Dave Clement, UME

Irrigation Management Survey

By: Hemendra Kumar, UME Ag Precision Specialist

The Precision Agriculture Lab at the UME is conducting a survey of all farmers in Maryland on irrigation management practices and expertise. This survey will help to collect data to better address the needs in the state and develop irrigation management resources. We would sincerely appreciate your assistance in this endeavor by completing this survey: **Irrigation Management Survey.**

This survey is meant for anyone (regardless of whether they currently irrigate or not) who grows a crop of any kind in Maryland, including but not limited to grains, vegetables, flowers, nursery plants, vineyards, and orchard fruits. All survey participants must be at least 18 years old and operate in the state. We anticipate the survey will take 10 minutes or less to complete.

All responses to this survey will be anonymous; no identifying information will be collected or connected to participant responses.

Thank you again for your assistance with developing applicable and useful extension resources to better serve farmers in Maryland!

Any questions or comments can be directed to Dr. Hemendra Kumar (hemendra@umd.edu) or Dr. Cara Peterson (cmpeters@umd.edu) of the Precision Agriculture Lab at the University of Maryland Extension.

Harlequin Bugs

By: Suzanne Klick

We have a mixed species cover crop planted here at the research center. The mix includes radish. Harlequin adults are feeding on the foliage this week. Harlequin bugs feed on a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plants. Herbaceous ornamentals commonly damaged by harlequin bugs include sunflowers, cleome, cabbage, and kale. Adults overwinter in plant debris, mulch, and other protected areas. Look for white spotting on foliage that turns brown. Control options include insecticidal soap, neem products, acephate, and synthetic pyrethroids.

Harlequin bug feeding causes white spots on foliage.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Spotted Lanternfly Continues to be Abundant and Active in Many Areas

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Adult spotted lanternfly (SLF) continues to be at high populations in many areas. Most SLF are congregating on trees where they are feeding (and producing lots of honeydew) and laying eggs. I have seen large numbers of adults on the trunks of tree of heaven in Columbia, MD and Sheena O'Donnell (CMREC, UME) saw adults and egg masses on maples in Ellicott City, MD. She noted how well egg masses camouflage on the bark of maples, and it would be easy to miss them. On trees, egg masses are often laid on trunks or on larger branches where they are usually on the underside of a branch. Once you get a "feel" for what the egg masses look like, it becomes easier to spot them on trees and other structures. Monitor carefully.

A control tactic for SLF 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.

Spotted lanternfly adults congregating on the trunk of tree-of-heaven. Note the heavy amount of honeydew / sooty mold at the base of the tree from the heavy feeding of high numbers of spotted lanternflies.
Photo: Paula M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Spotted lanternfly egg masses on the trunk of a tree.
Photo: Josh Warner, Antietam Tree and Turf

Close-up of spotted lanternfly egg masses (inside white circle). It looks like the top half is a newly laid egg mass that is covered with a protective waxy, mud-like covering. The lower half looks like they could be older eggs and there is no protective cover.
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Sheena O'Donnell (UME Technician) continues to monitor crapemyrtle bark scale (CMBS) life stages in University Park, MD. Like last week, there were mostly ovisacs with eggs and crawlers this week on October 6th.

Bernie Mihm, Fine Earth Landscape, reported that he has had excellent control of CMBS using a basal trunk spray with the high label rate of dinotefuran (Safari) with a bark penetrating agent. This was true for treatments made as early as May and as late as October.

Crapemyrtle bark scale image from October 1, 2025, showing an abundant number of ovisacs.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant

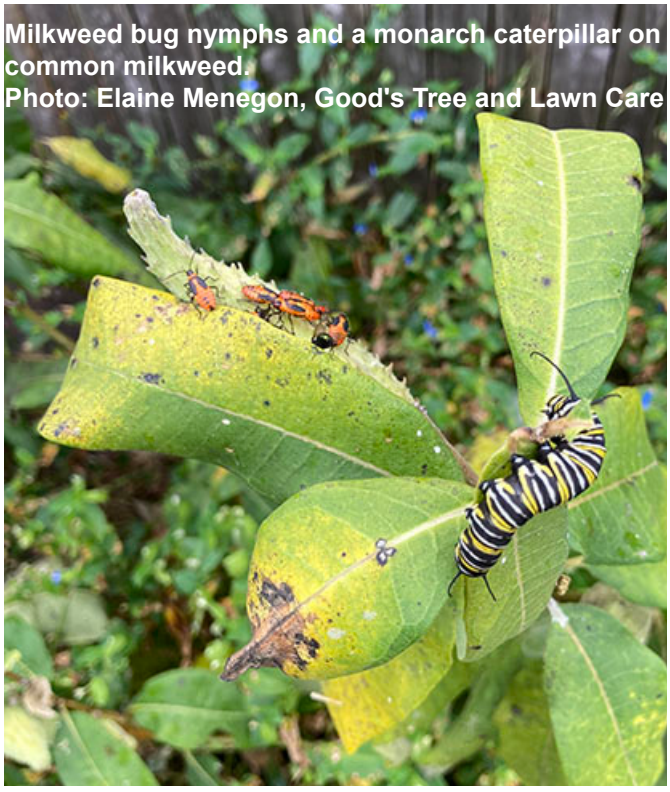
Woolly Beech Aphids

Kevin Schroeder, The Davey Tree Expert Company, found woolly beech aphids (also called the boogie woogie aphids because of how they move when threatened) on a beech in Queenstown this week. Beech is the only host for these aphids. They usually do not impact the overall health of the tree. They can be found in high numbers, producing a lot of honeydew on which sooty mold grows. The honeydew also attracts ants, yellowjackets, and other wasps.

Woolly beech aphids.
Photo: Kevin Schroeder, The Davey Tree Expert Co.

Milkweed Insects

Elaine Menegon Good's Tree and Lawn Care, found a monarch butterfly caterpillar and milkweed bugs on milkweed on October 6 in PA. The milkweed bugs will continue to feed on the seed pods this fall.



Milkweed bug nymphs and a monarch caterpillar on common milkweed.
Photo: Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Goldenrod flowers attract spiny assassin bugs

Last week I talked about how goldenrods (*Solidago* spp., Family Asteraceae) are in full bloom at this time of year and how attractive the flowers are to a diversity of beneficial insects. This week I would like to discuss another predator that I observed on the goldenrod at Richard W. DeKorte Park in the Meadowlands in NJ on September 30th – a spiny assassin bug (*Sinea* sp., Hemiptera: Reduviidae). There are two possible identifications for the assassin bug that I observed, but because it was a nymph and I have limited photos, I am not sure which one it is. It could be *Sinea diadema* known as the spined assassin bug or *S. spinipes* called the spiny assassin bug (along with other common names). *Sinea* species are native to North America and goldenrod is a common host plant that *Sinea* forages on in the fall. Adults and nymphs are predators of eggs, immatures and adults of many insects, both pest and some beneficial insects. They are often seen in the fall on goldenrod hanging upside down waiting for prey to come close, and then they grab it with their raptorial-like, spiny legs. Adults are about ½" in length and both adults and nymphs have several, very noticeable spines on their heads, legs, and other body parts. They are a mottled brown color and somewhat camouflage in the flowers of golden rod.

Spined assassin bug, *Sinea* spp., observed on goldenrod in early October.
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Weed of the Week

By: Chuck Schuster

American burnweed, *Erechtites hieraciifolius*, is a member of the aster family, can be found inhabiting landscape areas, disturbed roadsides, and areas that receive little management. This is a native, and it can spread quickly through seed dispersion. Found throughout much of the United States, it will grow to heights of eight feet, and is on occasion improperly identified as a tall dandelion. American burnweed will have a fibrous root system that is shallow in nature and a short taproot may also be found (photo1). The leaves are alternate, and this annual will produce a basal set of leaves that are larger than the leaves found on the upright stem, which are stalkless, and will be partially clasping the stem. The leaves on the upright stem, are ovate to lancelot in shape, occurring with lobes and pointed teeth on the lobes. The leaves may be entire also. The upper leaf surface may have fine hairs, but is usually smooth. It is similar in shape to prickly lettuce, but lacks the sharp prickly edges on the leaf and under the midvein. The stem will be very fibrous, will have dark green vertical lines and can have a whitish hair. The plant will produce a floral array at a terminal panicle (photo 3), and may have additional axillary panicles from the upper leaf axils. The flower buds will be cylindrical in shape, .25 inches wide and .75 inches tall, a disk shape flower will then present, being white to a pale yellow in color. The seed will be presented on a plume of fine bristles that will blow in the wind.

Often allowed to grow by those who enjoy the natives, with removal of the seed head prior to maturity to prevent the plant from taking over a setting. This should not be a weed of concern in turf as mowing controls it well.

Other control methods of American burnweed can include using mowing or mechanical removal as well as several options using either organic or synthetic materials. Pre-emergent materials that have worked well in landscape can included simazine and indaziflam (Margeno) have shown control for greater than twenty weeks. Post emergent control in landscapes includes Burnout (citric acid and citric oil), Prizefighter (ammonium nonanoate), flame (propane flame), garlon (pathfinder), glyphosate and glufosinate and combinations of sulfentrazone + metsulfuron. Use caution to not leave large bare areas as this will promote this early succession plant in gaining ground for the next year

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Photos: Chuck Schuster, UME-Retired

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Cornus florida is commonly called a flowering dogwood and is a lovely small native tree that thrives in afternoon shade to full sun, as long as the plants are watered. The deciduous plants grow 15-30 feet tall and wide with a horizontal branching habit, giving the plant a broad pyramidal to a flat-topped habit. Dogwoods prefer to grow in USDA zones 5-9 and in moist, organically rich acidic soils. It is very important to add at least a 1–2-inch layer of bark mulch to keep the roots moist and cooler in the heat of summer and to control annual weed seeds from germinating and competing for nutrients. Flowering dogwoods bloom in early spring before the leaves emerge, from April to May with 4 pure white bracts that surround a cluster of small, true greenish yellow flowers. The large bracts open flat to give the appearance of a single 3–4-inch flower that has notches at the ends. The flowers mature in October into bright red glossy oval fruits in clusters of 3-4 that are bitter and possibly poisonous to humans but are loved by our native songbirds. The dark green oval leaves have an entire margin and are arranged in an opposite fashion on the slender stems with distinctive veins that curve from the base of the leaves to the tip. In the cool autumn weather, the leaves turn red to a reddish purple. As a native tree, Dogwood is a host plant for spring Azure butterfly that feeds on the nectar. Bees also visit flowers including the *Andrena gragilis, A. interga,* and *A. platparia*. The fruit of dogwood are eaten by songbirds, ruffed grouse, quail, wild turkey, chipmunks, black bear, foxes, skunks and squirrels while white tailed deer feast on the fruit as well as leaves and twigs. Plants can be added to native gardens, pollinator gardens, butterfly gardens and winter gardens as a specimen accent or a mass planting. *C. florida* when stress is susceptible to many plant diseases including dogwood anthracnose, canker, powdery mildew, leaf and twig blight, leaf spot, and root rot. Insects that can cause problems include bores, leafminer, dogwood sawfly and scale. There are new cultivars that have resistance to anthracnose like ‘Appalachian Spring’, while ‘Cherokee Chief’, ‘Cherokee Princess’, ‘Welch’s Bay Beauty ‘are resistant to spot anthracnose. Other cultivars are resistant to powdery mildew and are worth looking at including ‘Appalachian Joy’, ‘Karen’s Appalachian blush that has white bracts with blush pink along the margins, ‘Jean’s Appalachian Snow”, ‘Kay’s Appalachian Mist’, and ‘Cherokee Brave’.


Full bracts and early flowering of dogwood (left) and start of foliar fall color and bright red fruits (right). Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Degree Days (as of October 8, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3982
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	4064
Belcamp (FS836)	3758
College Park (KCGS)	4050
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	4004
Ellicott City	3865
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	4147
Frederick (KFDK)	3872
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3915
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	3615
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3711
Millersville (MD026)	3930
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	4509
Perry Hall (C0608)	3663
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3862
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	4453
Westminster (KDMW)	4343

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

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

November 13, 2025 (morning session)
MDA Turf Nutrient Management Program (for PFA credits)

December 12, 2025
Advanced Integrated Pest Management Conference
Location: Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD

December 16, 2025
Maryland Turfgrass Conference
Location: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

January 5 – 8, 2026
Advanced IPM Short Course
Location: University of Maryland, College Park, MD

January 7 – 9, 2026
MANTS
Location: Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

January 21, 2026
LCA Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Conference
Location: TBD

January 30, 2026
FALCAN Conference
Location: Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD
Snow date is March 20, 2026

February 4, 2026
2026 Manor View Farm & The Perennial Farm Education Seminar
Location: Martin's Valley Mansion, 594 Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville MD
Paula Shrewsbury, UMD, will be speaking at this event.

February 11, 2026
Maryland Arborists' Conference
Location: Howard Community College, Columbia, MD
Snow date is February 12, 2026

February 12 – 13, 2026
Chesapeake Green Horticulture Conference
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

February 17, 2026
Eastern Shore Pest Management Conference
Location: Wicomico Civic Center, Salisbury, MD

2026 Advanced Landscape IPM PHC Short Course

This is a recertification short course for arborists, landscapers, IPM consultants, horticulturalists, professional gardeners, and others responsible for urban plant management. The course lectures will be held over four days at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. In addition, there will be a hands-on lab following lecture (available to a limited number of course attendees). Coordinators: Drs. Paula Shrewsbury and Mike Raupp, Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland
Lecture dates: Monday, January 5 - Thursday, January 8, 2026 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lab dates: Monday, January 5 - Thursday, January 8, 2025 from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (space limited)
Course information: https://landscapeipmphc.weebly.com/
Registration: https://go.umd.edu/ipm26courseregistration
Questions contact: Amy Yaich, 301-405-3911, umdentomology@umd.edu

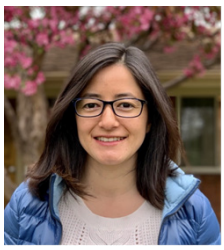
Commercial Ornamental IPM Information
http://extension.umd.edu/ipm

CONTRIBUTORS:

Paula Shrewsbury
Extension Specialist
pshrewsb@umd.edu

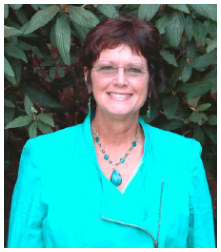
Laura Nixon
Extension Specialist
lnixon1@umd.edu

David Clement
Plant Pathologist
clement@umd.edu



Ana Cristina Fulladolsa
Plant Pathologist
acfulla@umd.edu

Nathan Glenn
Extension Educator
Howard County
nglenn@umd.edu



Nancy Harding
Faculty Research
Assistant

Kelly Nichols
Extension Educator
Montgomery County
kellyn@umd.edu

Karen Rane
Plant Pathologist
UMD-Retired

Andrew Ristvey
Extension Specialist
aristvey@umd.edu

Ginny Rosenkranz
Extension Educator
Wicomico,
Worcester, Somerset
Counties
rosnkrnz@umd.edu

Chuck Schuster
Retired, Extension
Educator,
cfs@umd.edu

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.