UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TPM/IPM Weekly Report

for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

Commercial Horticulture **October 31, 2025**

In This Issue...

Beneficial of the Week:
Orange and black predators

Weed of the Week:
Common chickweed

Plant of the Week:
Liquidambar styraciflua
(sweet gum)

Pest Predictive Calendar

Conferences

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)

End of the Season for Weekly UME Landscape and Nursery IPM Alerts

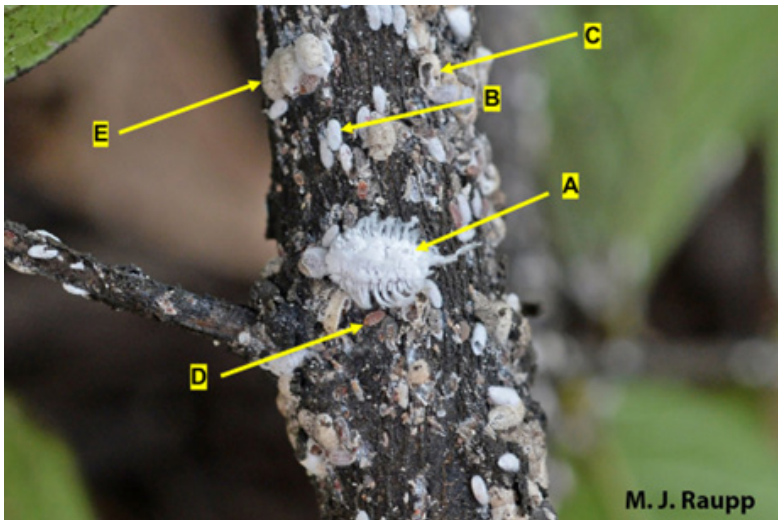
By: Paula Shrewsbury

Today's IPM Alert is the last for the 2025 season. We (UME Green Industry IPM Team and all of you) have had a good season. Thirty weekly IPM Alerts were published between the end of March and today, with two additional Special Issues. The IPM Alert is emailed to a subscribership of 5,611 individuals, many of whom share the IPM Alert with others. Some of the big pest issues that have continued or emerged in our area this season are box tree moth, yellow poplar weevil (that was a surprise), beech leaf disease, elm zig-zag sawfly, crapemyrtle bark scale, and spotted lanternfly. We will continue to inform you about research-based information on these pests and others at conferences and meetings. If you have any plant issues, please contact us. Any issues relevant to the industry can be shared through a Special Issue of the IPM Alert during the off-season.

The good news is that **Dr. Laura Nixon** joined UME in September and began her position as the Extension Specialist for Ornamental IPM and Entomology. She is is at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center Clarksville Facility. Laura has hit the ground running and is already a great colleague, meeting with stakeholders, and developing her applied research and Extension program. **Dr. Dan Buonaiuto** joined us this summer. He is housed on the UMD campus in the Plant Science Department and is the Invasive Species Plant Biologist doing research and Extension on invasive species / weeds in turfgrass and nursery systems. Dan is also getting his program up and running.

Our IPM Team wants to know if the IPM Alerts help all of you in your plant management, and how we can improve the IPM Alerts to better serve your needs. **Watch for the IPM Alert Survey that Suzanne will send out in mid-November.** Please respond to the on-line survey as your input and ideas help us to improve the Alert and its use as a plant management tool.

Yellow poplar weevil, *Odontopus calceatus*, adult on a magnolia flower. Note feeding damage on flower petal on the right.
Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD (from June 11, 2025 IPM Alert)



***Hyperaspis* lady beetle larva (A) feeding on crapemyrtle bark scale (CMBS); CMBS male pupal case (B), CMBS female ovisac that has been fed on (C), CMBS crawler (D), and CMBS intact ovisac made by female CMBS (E).**
Photo: Michael Raupp and Paula Shrewsbury, UMD (from July 31, 2025 IPM Alert)

Close up of a boxwood with a heavy infestation of the invasive box tree moth. Note the high number of caterpillars and damage (defoliation, frass, webbing).
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD (from August 22, 2025 IPM Alert)

Beech leaf disease was reported from multiple areas in the state this year.
Photo: Yonghao Li, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Bugwood.org

Woolly Apple Aphids

By: Suzanne Klick

Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care, found active woolly aphids on a pyracantha on October 27 in Hershey, PA. This aphid also feeds on other woody plants including apple, pear, hawthorn, mountain ash, and elm. With the decline of elm trees, this aphid primarily overwinters in the nymphal stage on the roots of apple trees. Predators such as lady beetles, syrphid flies, and lacewings help keep these aphids populations under control. Look for aphid mummies showing parasitic wasps are active. Check under the waxy filaments to see if aphids are still alive or have been fed on by predators. When populations are high and control is warranted, horticultural oil and insecticidal soap are options that have a limited impact on predator populations.

There is still some activity by woolly apple aphids before they move to overwintering sites.
Photo: Elaine Menegon, Good's Tree and Lawn Care

Damage inTurf

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found various holes in a turf area this week. She reported that it seemd to happen overnight. It is most likely caused by nocturnal mammals looking for beetle grubs. A few years ago, we had a report of raccoons causing this type of damage. Opossum and skunks also feed at night.

Damage in turf that is likely caused by a mammal looking for beetle grubs.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

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.

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Happy Halloween to you and all the orange and black predators!

Happy Halloween to all of you. Since it is Halloween, I thought it would be a good day to focus on beneficial insects that sport orange and black Halloween colors. Orange, red, yellow and black are warning colors in the insect world. Insects with these colors send the message that they are toxic and don't eat them. I am not surprised that a number of insects have these colors.

Note the variation in color and pattern of the Multi-colored Asian lady beetle.
Photo: Bill Ree, Texas A&M University; Bugwood.org

I am going to start with **multi-colored Asian lady beetles (*Harmonia axyridis*) (Coccinellidae)** since I have seen many of them crawling on plants outside and inside buildings where they have invaded. It seems like the color patterns of the multi-colored Asian lady beetle were made for this time of year. Individual adults vary in coloration from those with orange-brown wings with no black spots to those with orange-red wings with several black spots (see the image). It is that time of year when insects that "hibernate" in protected locations for the winter invade our homes and become a nuisance pest. The multi-colored Asian lady beetle has a dual personality, a nuisance pest in the fall and a beneficial in the spring and summer. The multi-colored Asian lady beetle finds its way into homes in the fall, where they aggregate sometimes by the hundreds or even thousands, in search of overwintering habitat. Some may even say they are "haunting" our homes! In the

spring these lady beetles will find an escape route to continue life outdoors. It is outdoors where they become our friend providing us with a free service – biological control of many plant feeding insects. This lady beetle is a generalist predator that feeds as adults and larvae on many species of aphids, scales, psyllids and even pollen from plants where they aid in pollination.

Orange assassin bug female laying a cluster of eggs. Photo: Paula M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Orange assassin bug, *Pselliopus barberi*, (Reduviidae) is one of many predacious assassins in the insect world. Orange assassin bug is common in the eastern U.S. They are regularly found in the spring or fall on flowers or foliage. They overwinter as adults in sheltered locations (under bark, rotting wood, etc.). Adults are about ½" long. They are orange with striped, black markings on their legs, antennae, and the outer edge of their abdomen. Most assassin bugs can be recognized by their elongate head and "neck", and their long thin antennae and legs. Most importantly, both adults and nymphs have a long, dangerous looking proboscis (mouthpart) that they use to suck their prey to death. Assassin bugs are very important predators of a diverse array of pest insects found feeding on ornamental plants and in other natural and managed plant systems. Most assassin bugs are ambush predators and hang out on foliage and flowers in search of prey such as caterpillars, flies, beetles, aphids, hoppers, and more. Click here to see a milkweed assassin bug nymph foraging. They approach their prey slowly, quickly grab the prey with their front legs, and then impale the insect with its beak. Through its beak, the assassin bug injects digestive enzymes that liquefy the body tissues of the prey making it possible for the predator to suck up its newly captured food. Both the nymphs and adults are predacious. If you are fortunate enough to come across one of these assassin bugs, watch it carefully and you may see it "assassinate" its lunch.

An orange assassin bug with its leafhopper prey. Go biological control! Photo: Mike J. Raupp, UMD

Another orange and black predator is the **Florida predatory stink bug, *Euthyrhynchus floridanus* (Pentatomidae)**. Historically, this predatory stink bug was known to occur in Florida and warmer southeastern states. In 2012, there has been an increase in the number of sitings of *Euthyrhynchus* in MD. *Euthyrhynchus* is likely expanding its range, a consequence of global warming that has been documented for multiple insect species. *Euthyrhynchus* is a generalist predatory stink bug that is known to feed on a diverse range of soft-bodied prey items such as caterpillars, beetle larvae, plant hoppers and other stink bugs, many of which are pest insects in our ornamental systems. They are often found foraging on the bark of trees. Adult *Euthryhnchus* have the typical stink bug or shield shape to their bodies and are about 12-17 mm in length. The bodies are black with 3 orange-red marks on their pronotum (the triangular section between the wings of the bug). Early instar nymphs are red in color, and mid-late instar nymphs are red and black.

Keep your eyes open for the many kinds of orange and black insects and have a fun and spooky Halloween!

Florida predatory stink bug (top) with its beak impaled into a brown marmorated stink bug (bottom). Photo: Wayne Longbottom, MD Biodiversity Project

This Florida predatory stink bug adult was found in Kent County this week. We received mores reports than usual of this predator this year. It was the Beneficial of the Week on May 16.
Photo: Sue Brown

Weed of the Week

By: Kelly Nichols

Now that the weather is cooler, the winter annuals are out to play. Common chickweed, *Stellaria media*, is a winter annual that prefers cool moist areas. Chickweed grows in a dense prostrate fashion and is found in many turf and landscape settings. This is a late summer, early fall germinating weed in many areas. Leaves are opposite, egg shaped and pointed at the tip. The root system is fibrous and shallow and easily detaches when the foliage is pulled. Small white flowers are produced. Common chickweed is a prolific seed producer, providing 800 to 30,000 seeds per plant. These seeds also seem to have long term viability in the soil; some seeds can be viable in the soil for at least a couple decades before germinating. Common chickweed can be distinguished from mouse-ear chickweed (*Cerastium fontanum*); mouse-ear chickweed has a hairy leaf blade and will root at the nodes.

Common chickweed plant and flower. Photo Credit: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.

Cultural control of common chickweed can be accomplished in turf by maintaining a dense thick turf. This cultural control method utilizes proper pH, fertility and of course, mowing at an appropriate height. Chickweed prefers damp setting, so irrigation management is useful. It does not tolerate warmer parts of the season and dies off during drought stress periods.

Prevention and control of common chickweed can be achieved through either pre- or post-emergent pesticides. To prevent common chickweed germination, the active ingredient DCPA or isoxaben can be used in the late summer. Chickweed in ornamental beds can be controlled with an early spring application of isoxaben plus trifluralin (e.g. Snapshot); this requires one half inch of rainfall or irrigation within three days to properly activate. Post-emergent control of common chickweed in turf can be controlled by many of the broadleaf herbicides. Post-emergent chickweed in beds or in turf can be achieved using of a glyphosate product as well as products that include ammonium nonanoate (e.g. Prizefighter), clove oil (e.g. Burnout), ammoniated soap of fatty acids (e.g. Pulverize), and citrus oil (e.g. Avenger). It should be noted that glyphosate resistance is being noted in some areas.

Figure 2. Shallow root system.
Photo: Chuck Shuster, Ag Agent Emeritus, University of Maryland Extension

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Liquidambar styraciflua or American sweet gum is a native deciduous tree that thrives in the Eastern United States. The trees grow 60-80 feet tall, 40-60 feet wide and need full sun and love moist well-drained acidic soils. It grows with a straight trunk and a pyramidal to rounded crown with a shallow root system, which makes planting in the spring necessary for the roots to recover from transplant shock. Plants are cold tolerant from USDA zones 5-9, thriving in every county in Maryland. The dark green, glossy 4-8-inch-long and wide leaves are star shaped with 5-7 pointed lobes. Each fragrant leaf has a long stalk that is arranged in an alternate fashion on the branches. In autumn the leaves bring a rainbow of colors including a mix of yellow, gold, orange, red, burgundy, lavender and purple. The light gray bark forms irregular, deep furrows, while the twigs develop 2-4 corky wing-like ridges. In spring the monoecious yellow green flowers are arranged in round clusters with mature into gum balls. The gum balls are 1-3 inches in diameter and turn dark brown, staying on the trees until December to April when the clusters fall to the ground. Although these fruits provide food for songbirds like the American goldfinch, they should be cleaned up in pedestrian areas due to their hard round bristly surface. Anyone who has stepped on a sweet gum ball barefoot will never do so willing again. For those that wish the lovely silhouette and beautiful fall foliage but not the spiny gum balls, there are cultivars that do not produce fruit including ‘Hapdell’ and ‘Rotundiloba’. The summer foliage provides food for the Imperial Moth larvae and the Hickory Horned devil larvae, while the bark is enjoyed by rabbits, mice and beavers. The trees are resistant to soil compacted soils, deer, drought, fire, heat, rabbits.

Orange to red fall foliage color of sweet gum growing along a wooded edge.
Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME


Close-up of fall color on sweet gum leaves and several stages of sweet gum balls. Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Degree Days (as of October 29, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	4130
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	4162
Belcamp (FS836)	3846
College Park (KCGS)	4150
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	4110
Ellicott City	3958
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	4267
Frederick (KFDK)	3936
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3991
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	3678
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3787
Millersville (MD026)	4034
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	4673
Perry Hall (C0608)	3744
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3976
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	4611
Westminster (KDMW)	4461

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

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: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

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 10, 2026
Maryland Arborists' Conference
Location: Howard Community College, Columbia, MD

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

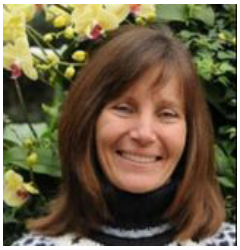
February 17, 2026
Eastern Shore Pest Management Conference
Location: Wicomico Civic Center, Salisbury, MD

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

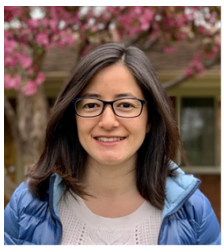
CONTRIBUTORS:



Paula Shrewsbury
Extension Specialist
pshrewsb@umd.edu

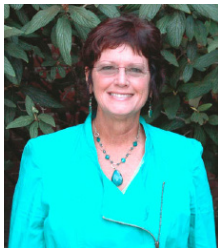
Laura Nixon
Extension Specialist
lnixon1@umd.edu

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

Stanton Gill
1952 - 2024

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.