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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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Disease Information: David Clement (Extension Specialist) and Ana Cristina Fulladolsa (Plant Pathologist and Director, UMD Diagnostic Lab)
Weed of the Week: Kelly Nichols and Nathan Glenn, (UME Extension Educators) and Dan Buonaiuti, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plants Sciences and Landscape Architecture

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Keep a Close Eye on Your Boxwood Plants

By: Laura Nixon

Box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) caterpillars have been reported actively feeding in Kent County, **Delaware** last Friday (3/13). Scouting in Western Maryland this week has not found any emergence. Emerging caterpillars are around half an inch long and will begin feeding immediately after exiting their winter hibernaculum (see photo). Visually inspect your boxwood plants closely over the next two weeks for signs of this emergence; if you find caterpillars, immediately report it to IPM Alerts and MDA with a clear photo and treat your boxwood.



Empty box tree moth hibernaculum and caterpillar feeding on foliage.
Photo: Brian Kunkel, University Delaware Extension

For recommendations, please see the [March 5, 2026 Special Pest Alert](#).

As of March 6, 2026, MDA has put a quarantine in place for box tree moth in Washington, Frederick, Garrett, and Allegany Counties. Any businesses moving regulated items into or from a quarantine zone need a certificate of inspection and compliance agreement in place with MDA <https://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/Box%20Tree%20Moth.aspx>

Ambrosia Beetles in Flight on the Eastern Shore

By: Laura Nixon

With a run of days predicted to hit 70 °F this month, ambrosia beetle monitoring traps were deployed at the beginning of March. Last week, high numbers of ambrosia beetles were reported in traps in Kent County, Maryland; we have not yet identified these beetles to species. Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found a few ambrosia beetles in a trap in Montgomery County during the period of high temperatures a few weeks ago.

This is a reminder to check your traps and trees for signs of ambrosia beetle flight. Ambrosia beetles can be monitored using wood bolts infused with ethanol or funnel traps baited with ethanol (ethyl alcohol).

If you are trapping for ambrosia beetle and would like to know the species, please send your samples to the address below, and an email to let us know they're coming (lnixon1@umd.edu or sklick@umd.edu): Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City MD 21042



**A Lindgren funnel trap used at our research center for monitoring ambrosia beetles.
Photo: Stanton Gill, UME**

Contributing to the Weekly IPM Report

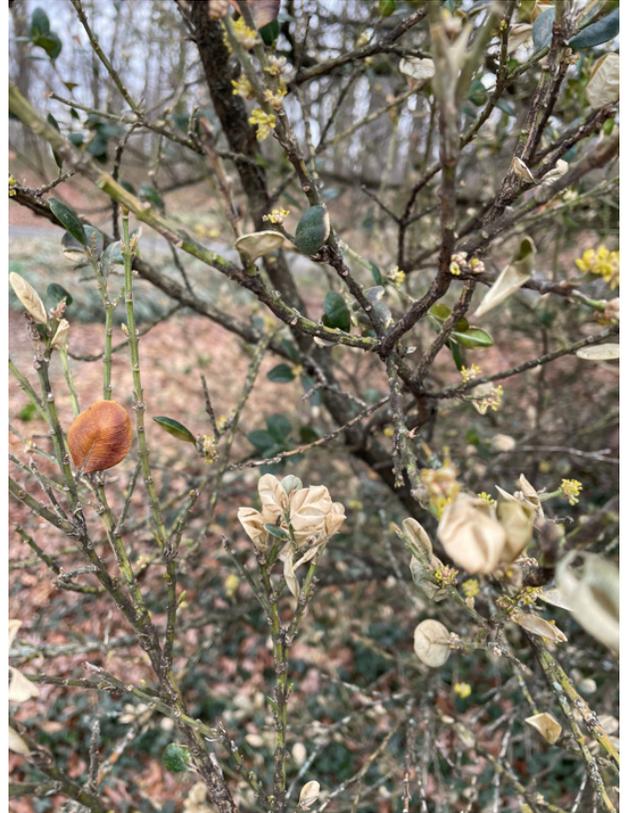
Whether you would like to be a regular contributor or you see something interesting (or worrying) during the season, please reach out and submit photos and observations. [Please go to the article on how to submit pest and plant problems](#).

Winter Damage

We have received a few reports already of winter damage on plants. Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding severe winter injury on the Nellie R Stevens hollies in Montgomery County. She is also finding damage on cherry laurels at various locations. Chris von Kohn, U.S. National Arboretum, is reporting severe winter damage on boxwood. Chris noted that the "one plant in question has largely defoliated on the more eastern and unshaded side of the plant with leaves seemingly exploded due to freezing temperatures combined with sunlight". He reported that there is no significant leafminer presence on the plant in question.



Heavy winter damage on a boxwood in Washington D.C..
Photo: Chris von Kohn, U.S. National Arboretum



Monitor for White Prunicola Scale and Other Insects Now

Sam Fisher, Bartlett Tree Experts, found an outbreak of white prunicola scale on a client's cherry laurels in DC. on March 6. This scale insect has become a significant problem on plants such as cherry laurel, lilacs, dogwoods, and hollies. The first generation crawler period for this scale is in May. Especially for deciduous plants, now is a good time to scout for overwintering stages of scale and other insects.



White prunicola scale on cherry laurel.
Photo: Sam Fisher, Bartlett Tree Experts

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

<http://extension.umd.edu/ipm>

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