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Beneficial of the Week:

Spider mite destroyer

Weed of the Week:

Common lespedeza

Plant of the Week:

Eupatorium rotundifolium

(roundleaf boneset)

Pest Predictive Calendar

Degree Days

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

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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 Buonaiuto, (Assistant Professor), Dept. of Plant Sciences and Architecture

Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)

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IPM Diagnostic Session (1 - 3 p.m.)

August 26, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD



This session is a great opportunity to bring plant samples with problems you need identified. Entomology, plant pathology, and horticulture extension specialists will be available to look at samples under the microscope and answer questions. There may be short presentations on timely insect pests.

Curled Rose Sawfly are Defoliating Roses

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Curled rose sawfly, *Allantus cinctus* (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae), were found feeding on rose on August 17th in Sharpsburg, MD by Mike Raupp (UMD). Several larvae were found on one plant and were causing defoliation of the new growth (see image). Curled rose sawfly larvae have reddish heads with black eyes. They have green bodies with rows of pale, short, stout projections (tubercles) and grow to ~ 3/4" long. The curled rose sawfly feeding starts off as skeletonization, as they grow larger pieces of leaf tissue are missing from the leaf edges, and ultimately defoliation of the leaves occurs. When they are not feeding, they curl up on the underside of a leaf and camouflage nicely with the leaves. When its development is complete, the larva bores into the twig where it pupates or



M. J. Raupp

**You can see where curled rose sawfly gets its name from.
Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD**



**Curled rose sawfly and feeding damage on rose.
Note the defoliation on the leaves.
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD**



M. J. Raupp

**Curled rose sawfly can consume entire leaves, leaving only the midvein behind.
Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD**

drops and pupates in the ground. Later the adult, a small wasp, will emerge, mate, lay eggs and initiate a second seasonal generation. Curled rose sawfly can be found throughout most of the season. In 2025, we had reports of feeding and heavy defoliation in the first week of September.

Note there are two other common sawfly species on roses, the roseslug sawfly (*Endelomyia aethiops*) which have one generation per year and are active early in the season; and the bristly rose sawfly (*Cladius difformis*

or *pectinicornis*) that has 5-6 generations per year and is the most damaging, is still active now. All 3 sawfly species are non-native.

Recommendations: Monitor roses showing damage closely for the presence of sawfly larvae. They camouflage well and can be found above or below the leaves. I find it helps to look at the leaves showing feeding damage. Pick larvae off by hand and destroy them. If warranted, spinosad or horticultural oil should also provide control. Other options include cyantraniliprole and chlorantraniliprole.

For more information, images and videos on rose sawflies 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>

UME HGIC <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/sawflies/>

Red-headed Pine Sawfly: Defoliating pines

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

This week Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant, observed second generation red-headed pine sawfly *Neodiprion lecontei* (Hymenoptera: Diprionidae) defoliating needles from *Pinus taeda* and *P. virginiana* in Montgomery County, MD. An aggregation of larvae can defoliate whole sections of a pine very rapidly. Once larvae have stripped the needles, they feed on bark tissue with heavy damage killing the affected branches. Small, infested trees can be killed. This native sawfly feeds on pines including jack, red, shortleaf, loblolly, Japanese black, and mugo. Other hosts include deodar cedar and Norway spruce. The second generation of red-headed pine sawfly can be active until late in the season (ex. October). If you manage host plants of this sawfly, be sure to monitor plants for aggregations of red-headed pine sawfly.



Second generation red-headed pine sawfly feed gregariously, defoliating pine trees. Note where needles have been chewed down to the bundle.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Control: There are numerous natural enemies that feed on sawflies, especially many larger wasps and yellow jackets who use the sawfly as food for their young. For isolated trees and where feasible, prune off branches with aggregations of sawflies and destroy them or knock them off the plant into a container of water with dish soap in it. If numerous trees are infested, products in which spinosad is the active ingredient should give good control. Horticultural oil works well against young sawfly larvae but should only be used when weather conditions are appropriate (read the label).

[For more details on red-headed pine sawfly go to the July 2nd, 2026 IPM Report.](#)

Dogwood Sawfly Defoliation

By: Laura Nixon

Mark Ware (Davey Tree Experts) was called in to look at a client's yellow twig dogwood last week, which had been completely defoliated. The area was covered in dogwood sawfly (*Macremphytus* spp.), which had consumed all of the leaves of the dogwood and were moving off the plant, which included falling into a nearby Koi pond, making for happy fish and an unhappy tree. In the [June 17th 2026 IPM alert](#), Paula wrote a great article on the biology and life history of dogwood sawfly species. There is one generation per year, with the early instars hatching in mid to late June. The early instars can be treated with spinosad, azadirachtin or horticultural oil, or systemics such as chlorantraniliprole (ex. Acelepryn) or cyantraniliprole (ex. Mainspring). These later instars that Mark was seeing are harder to treat, but can be pruned off, hand removed, or (if numbers get to this damaging degree) be treated with a contact insecticide. At this time of year, scout your dogwoods for this species to avoid sudden defoliation and to gauge next year's population.



Yellow twig dogwood defoliated by sawfly.
Photo: Mark L Ware, Sr., Davey Tree Experts



Dogwood sawfly moving off the defoliated host.
Photo: Mark L Ware, Sr., Davey Tree Experts

Box Tree Moth Caterpillars Killing Boxwood in Shepherdstown, WV

By: Paula Shrewsbury

On Sunday August 16th, John Piccolomini (Landscape Operations Manager) sent in pictures of boxwoods that were “decimated” by box tree moth (BTM) caterpillars in his yard and the impressive amount of webbing on nearby plants associated with the boxwoods in Shepherdstown (Jefferson County), WV (see images). Although BTM has been reported in Jefferson County previously, to my knowledge this is the first time BTM has been reported in Shepherdstown. John made a few interesting observations. One was how suddenly the severe damage to his boxwoods occurred. He said on Friday he did not notice a problem with the boxwoods, and by Sunday the boxwoods were decimated. John also noted that caterpillars were crawling on his house and there was a lot of silk hanging from every tree near the boxwoods. It seemed like the caterpillars were using the silk strands to disperse. John is responding appropriately to his BTM situation. Since there were high densities of active caterpillars, he sprayed the boxwoods. A day or so later, he removed the boxwoods and burned or bagged them. In addition, John contacted us at UME and the WV Department of Agriculture.

There are a few take-home messages from this story. First is that early damage from the caterpillars is easy to miss, and boxwoods seem to go from little or no damage to severe damage VERY quickly. This is why *regular and careful monitoring is critical to managing BTM* and slowing their spread. Second, if you have boxwoods, educate yourself and everyone in your company as to what BTM and its damage looks like, especially if you are in or bordering a county where BTM has been found, and develop a regular monitoring program.

UME BTM Research update: Suzanne Klick (UME) monitored BTM research sites in Williamsport, MD and found high levels of BTM caterpillar activity on Thursday 8/20.



Box tree moth caterpillar damage to boxwoods found this week in Shepherdstown, WV.
Photo: John Piccolomini



Heavy silk webbing by box tree moth caterpillars going from boxwoods to nearby landscape plants. Note the caterpillars using the webbing, likely to disperse.
Photo: John Piccolomini



Bill Van Tol, Grounds Supervisor, reported this damage from late instar box tree moth at his neighbor's house in Charles Town, WV.
Photo: Bill Van Tol, Grounds Supervisor. Navy Federal Credit Union

Oak Lobed Stem Galls

By: Suzanne Klick

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found oak lobed stem galls (aka pine cone galls) on stems of various species of oaks this week. They start out pink and turn tan to brown as they mature. They are caused by the larvae of a small cynipid wasp, *Andricus quercusstrobilanus*. Each gall houses a single wasp larva. These galls eventually fall off and do not cause overall harm to the tree. No control is necessary.



Oak lobed stem galls eventually turn brown and will fall to the ground.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Stink Bug Eggs on Tomato

By: Paula Shrewsbury

This week, Johsua Yospyn found stink bug eggs on tomato foliage. I am sure these are stink bug eggs and not brown marmorated stink bug eggs. But I am not sure what species of stink bug they are.



Stink bug egg cluster on tomato.
Photo: Joshua Yospyn

More Natural Enemies Providing Biological Control

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, observed some impressive biological control this week. Oleander aphids were on *Aesclepius* (milkweed) plants in Marie's garden. The aphid population was high with aphids lining some of the stems. Marie observed a syrphid fly larva feeding on the aphids on one of these flower stems with lots of aphids. She went back 24 hours later and was surprised to see just a few oleander aphids left on that stem (see the before and after images). As Marie stated, "That's one hungry beneficial!"

Syrphid fly adults feed on nectar and pollen from flowering plants. Syrphid fly larvae are important generalist predators that help to suppress many herbaceous insects common on ornamental plants. Plant a diversity of flowering plants to attract and sustain populations of syrphids and other natural enemies.



Syrphid flies feed on nectar when they are adults.

Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD



Syrphid fly larva feeding on oleander aphids (Before: left side, blue arrow). The same stem only 24 hours later with only a few aphids remaining (After: right). Now that is a good biological control agent!

Photos: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Stippling Damage on Asters: Chrysanthemum lace bug

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Images of damage to China asters growing in a greenhouse setting on the Eastern Shore of MD were sent in this week. Based on the images, it appears to be damage from Chrysanthemum lace bug, *Corythuca mamorata* (Hemiptera: Tingidae) feeding. Although the name is Chrysanthemum lace bug, this lace bug also feeds on other plants in the Asteraceae family such as asters, black-eyed Susan, sunflower, goldenrod, and ragweed.

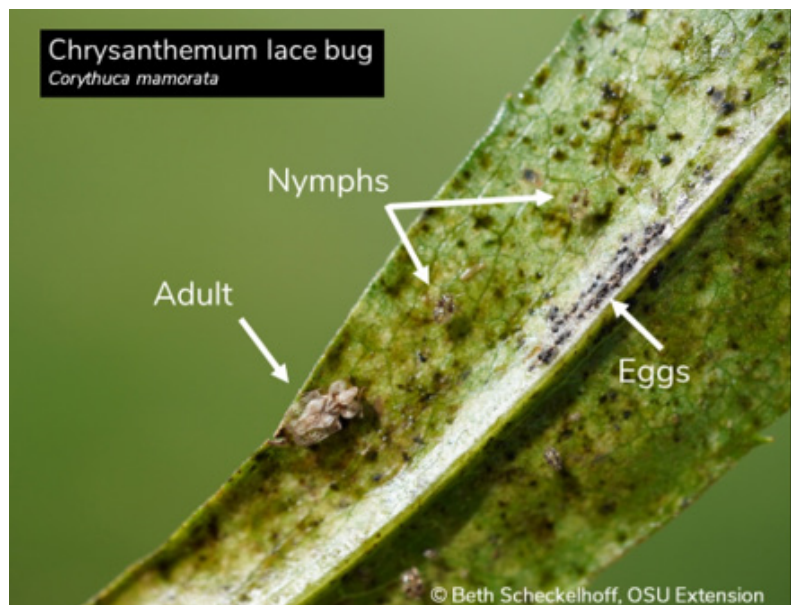
The Chrysanthemum lace bug overwinters as adults. In the spring adults become active and lay eggs that are inserted into the underside of the leaf along a major vein and capped with fecal droplet. Eggs hatch and develop through 5 nymphal instars before they molt into an adult. There can be 2 or more generations per year with densities and damage appearing heavier later in the season. They feed on the upper and lower leaf surface of leaves of their hosts. They use their sucking mouthparts to remove plant sap that results in yellow stippling on the leaf surface. Under heavy infestations, the foliage has a bleached appearance. They leave black fecal drops on the under-and upper side of the leaf. The stippling, black fecal spots, and lack of webbing (would be present with spider mites) are diagnostic characteristics, along with the present of active life stages, eggs, and shed skins for lace bugs.



Stippling damage to upper leaf surface of China aster by Chrysanthemum lace bug. Photo: Dani Winters, Winters Farm Florals



Damage to the underside of foliage of China aster by Chrysanthemum lace bug feeding and black fecal spots. Photo: Dani Winters, Winters Farm Florals



Close up image of the underside of a leaf showing the life stages of Chrysanthemum lace bug and the black fecal spots that it leaves on the underside of foliage where it feeds. Photo: Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

If densities of Chrysanthemum lace bug are low, chemical treatment is usually not warranted and allows natural enemies to maintain low pest densities. If densities and damage are high, treat with a systemic insecticide labeled for lace bugs that has low impact on natural enemies and pollinators such as flupyradifurone (e.g. Altus). Other systemics labeled for lace bugs include acephate (e.g. Orthene, Lepitect), as well as neonicotinoids such as dinotefuran (e.g. Safari, Transtect). Be sure to follow pollinator protection recommendations for chemical controls.

For more information and images of the lace bug and its damage go to:

<https://bygl.osu.edu/node/2039>

Update: Lots of caterpillar feeding going on

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, reports lots of caterpillar activity on trees in nurseries in Montgomery County, MD this week. Natural enemies are responding to the presence of the abundance of prey for them to attack and on which to feed.

Saddleback caterpillar (*Acharya stimulea*, Limacodidae) – Let's start with one of the caterpillar species you least want to see or should I say least want to touch. When Marie was scouting, she came across "the largest congregation" of saddleback caterpillars she had ever seen. They were on *Aesculus* 'Ft. McNair'. Fortunately for Marie, she saw them before she accidentally touched them. Saddleback caterpillars are generalist feeders. It has spines on its body that release a toxin (a potent hemolytic and neurotoxic venom) when touched that causes quite a painful sting. In addition to immediate intense burning pain, the sting is often followed by redness, swelling and a rash. Be sure to scout plants closely to avoid encountering saddleback caterpillars physically. Even the cocoon can be covered with these stinging spines. Saddleback caterpillars will be active now through the fall so be on the lookout.



Saddleback caterpillars webbing a leaf together, likely to provide a hiding place from predators.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Fall webworm (2nd generation) (*Hyphantria cunea*, Erebiidae) – The second generation of fall webworm continue to feed with large, messy tents at the end of branches of many trees. The most common host trees are walnut, mulberry, hickory, sweet gum, willow oak, linden, ash, apple and other fruit trees. If caterpillars are active withing tents, destroy the tents to expose caterpillars to natural enemies and the environment. For more detailed information, see the article on fall webworm that I wrote in the [May 23rd, 2025 IPM Report](#).



A saddleback caterpillar with cocoons of a parasitic wasp (*Cotesia* sp.) attached to its body.

Photo: Richard Orr, marylandbiodiversity.com

Red-humped caterpillar (*Oedemasia concinna*, Notodontidae) – Marie observed red-humped

caterpillars feeding gregariously on *Nyssa* and *Aesculus*. These are mid-late season caterpillars with a relatively wide host range. Trees should tolerate the damage given it is late in the season. If warranted, prune out clusters of the caterpillars or hand remove. Be sure to wear gloves as handling them can cause skin irritation.

Orange-striped oakworm (*Anisota senatoria*, Saturniidae) – Orange-striped oakworms have one generation a year and the caterpillars are now quite large. Marie reported quite a bit of defoliation on various oak species. I observed several oaks in landscapes in Sharpsburg MD that also had large amounts of defoliation. Because it is late in the season and the leaves have had time to do their jobs, most oaks should be able to tolerate this damage. If you see caterpillars (usually feed in clusters on specific branches of the tree), hand-remove them or prune out the branch. If the caterpillars have been parasitized, leave the caterpillar mummies on the tree as a potential source of natural enemies for next year. As we move through the summer, the caterpillars will soon be seen moving across sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots looking for places to pupate. They pupate in the ground, often near the trees on which they were feeding so they are often found in the same locations each year. For more detailed information see the story written by Holly Greenberg (UME) in the [July 24th IPM Report](#).

Catalpa sphinx moth caterpillar (*Ceratomia catalpa*, Sphingidae) – Catalpa sphinx moth has multiple generations a year and feed mainly on catalpa (family Bignoniaceae). Marie reported seeing these caterpillars earlier in the season. She also reported seeing them on Catalpa this week. The big difference is this week she saw caterpillars with multiple parasitoid cocoons emerging from their body (see image). John Lamir, Montgomery County Parks, was lucky enough to observe a wheel bug adult (a type of assassin bug) feeding on a catalpa sphinx moth caterpillar. The wheel bug has its sucking mouth part stuck into the caterpillar just behind the head. You can see the caterpillar looks a little thin in this area (see image). It is not unusual to see natural enemies attacking and providing biological control of this caterpillar.



Note the characteristic position of fall webworm tents on the terminals of the branches. This is a large tent that was seen at the end of the summer (2nd generation).
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD



Red-humped caterpillars feed in aggregations and can defoliate a branch relatively quickly late in the season when caterpillars are large.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Oak showing late season defoliation from orange-striped oakworm.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Large, late instar caterpillar of orange-striped oakworm.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Multiple parasitoid wasp larvae develop within a catalpa sphinx moth caterpillar. When ready to pupate, the larvae chew their way out of the caterpillar to build white cocoons and pupate outside the caterpillar.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Wheel bug adult feeding on a catalpa sphinx moth caterpillar. From this underside view it is hard to see the sucking mouthpart stuck into the body of the caterpillar, but it is.
Photo: John Lamir, Montgomery County Parks



Pipevine swallowtail larvae: several instars and cast skins in the photo.
Photo: Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care



American dagger moth caterpillars feed on a variety of woody plants.
Photo: Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care



If you see a fast-moving yellow woolly caterpillar, it is most likely the yellow woollybear. They are very active at this time of year.
Photo: Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care

Botryosphaeria Diseases

By: D.L. Clement

At this time of the summer season many of our struggling landscape plants have been afflicted by the usual summer stresses including heat, drought, poor establishment, over mulching, insect infestations, diseases, over mulching, and carry over damage from last year. As general landscape horticulturists you probably do a lot of good things that help plants through these stressful times including corrective pruning practices to reduce plant disease.

Several fungal *Botryosphaeria* species cause stem cankers and dieback damage to our woody landscape plants, especially newly planted or struggling plants that have been slow to establish in their sites. *Botryosphaeria* fungi can live long periods of time as surface inhabitants on plants before taking advantage of the opportune stresses for infection. Several stress factors such as drought and poor planting site conditions can lead to infection.



Stress factors such as drought can lead to infection from *Botryosphaeria* species. Note the canker on this stem.

Photo: David Clement, UME

Botryosphaeria fungi can attack both deciduous and coniferous plants in the landscape. Records from the mid-Atlantic region plant clinics confirm at least 80 landscape plants that have been diagnosed with *Botryosphaeria* diseases, and the official list is more than 170 plant species. Symptoms of *Botryosphaeria* cankers and dieback are most commonly seen as wilting or dieback of branches on trees and shrubs that often appear healthy. By carefully slicing through the bark the wood beneath will be discolored brown instead of white. In some cases, cankers may appear sunken and darkened or surrounded by callused wound wood. Cankered areas on tender stems of smooth-barked species, such as crabapples, may appear blistered. On trees, such as sweetgum, cherries, and conifers the sap will exude from cankered areas. Black spore-producing structures may be visible inside the canker. These fruiting bodies are white inside when sliced open.

Management

There are no fungicides that will cure *Botryosphaeria* diseases. The best strategy for disease avoidance is to lessen plant stress, replace severely diseased plants and prune out diseased branches when possible. Select plants that are appropriate for the planting site. For example, red stemmed dogwoods planted in containers located in full sun are more susceptible to *Botryosphaeria* disease than well-watered plants in part shade. Avoid cultural and environmental stresses such as poor planting, lack of irrigation during establishment and compacted soil. Pruning out dead wood is very important, because *Botryosphaeria* fungi can colonize dead wood and move from dead into healthy wood. Prune dark colored dead or diseased wood back at least 6-8 inches to light colored living wood.

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Spider mite destroyer – a small but “mitey” predator

Not surprisingly, with the heat we have had this season there have been multiple reports of spider mites. At this time of year, we are likely to see two-spotted spider mites, *Tetranychus urticae*, which is a warm season mite that feeds on a wide range of deciduous trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. There are numerous predators that consume spider mites such as lady beetles, predatory mites, dusty wings, lacewings, minute pirate bugs,



Spider mite destroyer adult among shed skins, eggs, and webbing of spider mites.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD



Spider mite destroyer larva among shed skins and active spider mites.
(image from UC Statewide IPM Program, Univ. of Calif.)

midges, and predatory thrips. Lady beetles and predatory mites are the most common predators of spider mites; however, it is usually a complex of natural enemies that often have the greatest impact on pest insects and mites.

A frequently observed and voracious lady beetle predator of spider mites is the **spider mite destroyer**, *Stethorus punctillum* (Coccinellidae). Using their chewing mouth parts, they feed as adults and larvae on a variety of spider mite species. Spider mite destroyer adults are tiny (less than 2mm; 0.08”), black lady beetles that are somewhat hairy (light-colored fine hairs on front wings). Adult females lay eggs by scattering them singly on foliage infested with spider mites. [Spider mite destroyer eggs hatch and small grayish-black larvae with numerous fine hairs begin to feed voraciously on the various spider mite life stages \(eggs, larvae, nymphs, adults\).](#) It takes about 3 weeks for spider mite destroyers to go from egg to adult. Adult females usually live 1 to 3 months, and each will lay 100 to 300 eggs in its lifetime. When monitoring spider mites and their predators, be sure to look for spider mite destroyer pupa or empty pupal cases which are black to reddish in color, in addition to the eggs, larvae and adults. All life stages are usually found on the underside of foliage. Spider mite destroyers can build up to high populations when spider mites are abundant. These little lady beetles can significantly reduce spider mite populations and their damage to plants, especially in conjunction with predatory mites and other spider mite predators.

Select and implement IPM practices that will give these “mitey” predators a chance to increase their populations and decrease spider mite densities and damage.

Weed of the Week

By: Nathan Glenn

Common Lespedeza (*Kummerowia striata*)

As summer progresses and turf begins to experience heat and drought stress, some weeds become much more noticeable. **Common lespedeza** (*Kummerowia striata*), also known as annual lespedeza or Japanese clover, is one of those summer annuals. While lespedeza can be a useful forage plant in pastures and hayfields, it can become a troublesome weed in low-maintenance turf, roadsides, and other disturbed areas. It is particularly well adapted to the heat and drought conditions of summer and can compete with turfgrass when desirable plants are stressed.

Identification

Common lespedeza is a freely branching, low-growing summer annual. Its stems initially grow close to the ground but may become more upright as the plant matures.

- ☐ **Growth habit:** Prostrate to ascending, freely branched, and wiry
- ☐ **Stems:**
 - ☐ Initially green and hairy
 - ☐ Hairs point **toward the base of the plant**
 - ☐ Become harder and more woody as the plant matures
- ☐ **Leaves:**
 - ☐ Alternate and **trifoliate**, meaning each leaf is divided into three leaflets
 - ☐ Leaflets are smooth, oblong to elliptical, and have **parallel veins**
 - ☐ The three leaflets arise from the same point and have very short stalks
- ☐ **Flowers:**
 - ☐ Small and pea-like
 - ☐ Usually pink to purple
 - ☐ Produced in the **leaf axils**
 - ☐ Appear throughout summer and into fall
- ☐ **Fruit:** Small, one-seeded pods



Photo 1: Common lespedeza in a lawn setting.

Photo: Patrick McCullough, University of Georgia



Photo 2: Common lespedeza woody stems in late summer.

Photo: Patrick McCullough, University of Georgia

One useful identification feature is the direction of the hairs on the stem. **Common lespedeza has hairs that point downward toward the base of the stem.** A similar species, Korean clover (*Kummerowia stipulacea*), has hairs that point upward.

Fun Fact: Common lespedeza is actually a legume and has been intentionally grown as a forage crop. The same plant that can be considered a valuable pasture species can become a troublesome turf weed when it establishes in a lawn.

Habitat & Timing

- ☐ Common in **low-maintenance turf, roadsides, pastures, and disturbed areas**
- ☐ Particularly successful where turfgrass is **thin, stressed, or competing poorly**
- ☐ Tolerates **heat and drought**
- ☐ Germinates in the **spring** and grows throughout the summer
- ☐ Flowers and produces seed from summer into fall
- ☐ Stems become increasingly woody as the season progresses, helping the plant persist late into the summer.

Cultural Control

The best defense against common lespedeza is a **healthy, competitive stand of turfgrass.**

Avoid overwatering, particularly in areas where the desirable turfgrass does not require additional moisture. Deep and infrequent irrigation encourages deeper turfgrass rooting and can improve the ability of desirable grasses to compete with annual weeds.

Soil compaction can also contribute to lespedeza problems. Minimize traffic on stressed turf and aerate when the desirable turfgrass is actively growing and able to recover quickly. For example, tall fescue should generally be aerated in early fall after recovering from summer stress rather than during spring, when the resulting open soil can provide opportunities for summer annual weeds to establish.

Proper mowing is also important. Maintaining an appropriate mowing height and avoiding scalping will help maintain a dense turf canopy. Raising the mowing height during periods of peak summer annual weed germination can improve the turfgrass's ability to compete with lespedeza.

Chemical Control

Pre-emergent control:

Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied **before lespedeza seeds germinate**, with spring applications timed as soil temperatures reach the **low to mid-50s°F in the upper four inches of soil**. Split applications may help extend residual control later into the summer.

Dithiopyr (Dimension®) can provide effective pre-emergent control of common lespedeza. Atrazine and simazine also have pre-emergent activity on lespedeza, although their use is dependent on the turf species and product label. Isoxaben (Gallery®) may provide control, but results can be inconsistent.

Post-emergent control:

Several post-emergent herbicides can provide effective control, including products containing:

- ☐ 2,4-D + dicamba + MCPP
- ☐ Dicamba
- ☐ Metsulfuron
- ☐ Triclopyr
- ☐ Triclopyr + 2,4-D
- ☐ Other labeled combination products

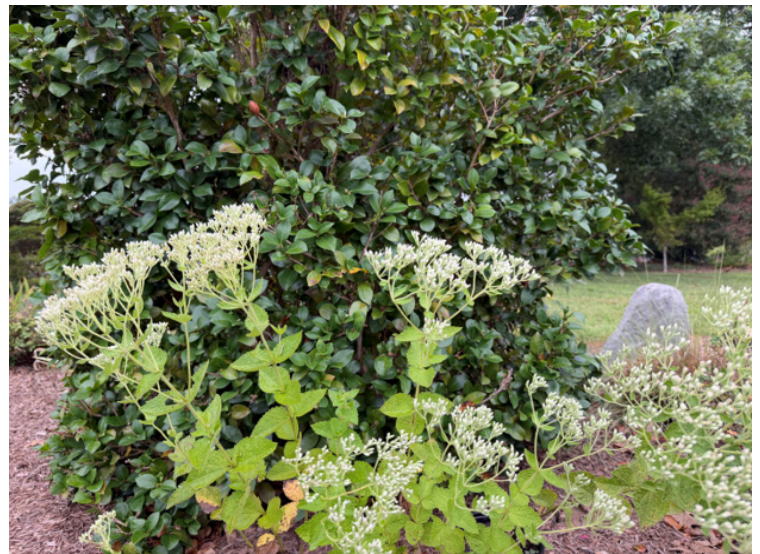
The best product depends on the turfgrass species being treated. **Metsulfuron, for example, can be effective but is not appropriate for tall fescue at rates needed for effective lespedeza control.** Multiple applications may be necessary, particularly when treating mature plants late in the summer.

Management Tip: Don't wait until common lespedeza has become a large, woody mat in the turf. Maintaining dense turf, avoiding summer stress, and targeting young plants before they mature will make control much easier. And, as always, **check the product label for the specific turfgrass species, application site, and use restrictions before applying any herbicide.**

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Eupatorium rotundifolium or roundleaf boneset is a native herbaceous perennial that thrives in wooded and meadow locations, growing in both bogs and dry soils. They grow in full sun to partial shade and are cold tolerant in USDA zones 4-8b. In the spring, the rosettes of rounded leaves emerge from the soil, and the stems grow to a mature height of 3 feet. Each single stem will have a few branches close to the top of the stems where the flower heads bloom above the foliage. The gray/ silver/green round leaves usually attach themselves to the stems in an opposite fashion, but there are some that are attached alternately. Each leaf has a serrated edge with 3 prominent veins and is attached to the stem without any petiole. The pure white flowers are arranged on an umbel or flower head that can grow to 6 inches across. Each flower is made up of 4-5 petals, and they bloom in the summer into the fall. When in bloom the flowers attract large numbers of butterflies and native bees, and when the flowers mature into seeds the native birds feast on them. There are no serious insects or diseases, and are resistant to deer and rabbit browsing, thriving in both dry and wet soils.



Roundleaf boneset does well in woodland and meadow areas.

Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Pest Predictive Calendar “Predictions”

By: Nancy Harding and Paula Shrewsbury

In the Maryland area, the accumulated growing degree days (DD) this week range from about **2517 DD** (Clarksville) to **3424 DD** (Nat'l Arboretum/Reagan Nat'l). 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.

Japanese maple scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2508 DD)**

Fern scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(2813 DD)**

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)**

Spotted lanternfly – egg laying **(Sept.)**

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 August 19, 2026)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3066
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	3044
Belcamp (FS836)	2946
Clarksville (001MD)	2517
College Park (KCGS)	3144
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	3061
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	3188
Frederick (KFDK)	2786
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	2933
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	2727
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	2819
Millersville (MD026)	3048
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	3424
Perry Hall (C0608)	2851
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3034
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	3213
Westminster (KDMW)	3121

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 calculator Thresholds in: Fahrenheit °F Lower: 50 Upper: 95 Calculation type: simple average/growing dds Start: Jan 1

Conferences

[IPM Diagnostic Session \(1 - 3 p.m.\)](#)

August 26, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

[FALCAN Truck & Trailer Safety Seminar](#)

October 14, 2026

Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD

Registration opens in July.

2027 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 4 - Thursday, January 7, 2027 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lab dates: Monday, January 4 - Thursday, January 7, 2027 from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (space limited)

Course information: <https://landscapeipmphc.weebly.com/>

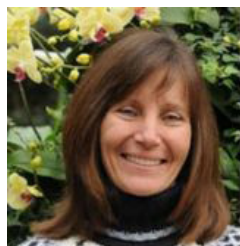
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2027-advanced-landscape-ipm-phc-short-course-tickets-1992372702386?aff=oddtcreator>

Questions contact: Amy Yaich, 301-405-3911, umdentomology@umd.edu

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

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

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