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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

Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:

Laura Nixon, IPM Specialist in Entomology, University of Maryland Extension, Lnixon1@umd.edu, and Paula Shrewsbury, Professor and Extension Specialist in Ornamental and Turf IPM, Department of Entomology, pshrewsbury@umd.edu

Regular Contributors:

Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Laura Nixon and Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialists) and Nancy Harding, Faculty Research Assistant
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)
Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey (Extension Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)
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PRESS RELEASE - Laurel Wilt in Connecticut

Thursday, September 10, 2026

The Office of the State Entomologist

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

New Haven – In August of 2026, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) confirmed a report of symptomatic sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) trees in Fairfield County, CT. Testing of infected material resulted in a positive for *Harringtonia lauricola*, known as laurel wilt. Laurel wilt is an introduced fungal disease that has impacted forests of the eastern United States. This pathogen now poses a threat to the forests of Connecticut by killing plants in the Laurel family like sassafras and spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*), which provide benefits to our state's ecosystem. Despite the name, this disease does not harm mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*).

For more information on [laurel wilt](#), view the Cornell University fact sheet.

**Cut Flower Program:
Lectures and Farm Tour
September 29, 2026**

Locations:

Morning: Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD

Afternoon: Tour of Tanglewood Flowers Farm, Ashton, MD

Managing Soil Fertility: A Primer on Plant Nutrition and Soil Management (Andrew Ristvey, UME)

Is A Flower Cooperative the Next Step for Your Business? (Jill Coutts, Tanglewood Flowers Farm, and Lisa Dirks, Chesapeake Flower Exchange Founding Member)

An Introduction to Tea and Edible Chrysanthemums (Xuan Wei, UME)

Insect Pest Management in Cut Flowers (Laura Nixon, UME)

Common Diseases on Cut Flowers (Dave Clement, UME)

Tour of Tanglewood Farm (Jill Coutts)



For more information and to register, go to: <https://26SeptCutflower.eventbrite.com>

A Lot of Good Guys!

By: Laura Nixon

This week, many observations have been made of insects that have previously starred in Paula's Beneficial of the Week. So, consider this our Late Summer Hall of Fame!

Ailanthus Webworm Moth/Ermine Moth (*Atteva aurea*)

Featured on 27th September 2024: <https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2024-09/24Sep27L.pdf>



Ailanthus webworm caterpillars cause damage to the invasive tree-of-heaven.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Look for Ailanthus webworm moths at flowers during the day.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Thread-wasted Wasp (Sphecidae)

Featured on 25th September 2025:

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2025-09/25Sep12L.pdf>

Soldier Beetles (Cantharidae)

Featured on 16th July 2021:

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-07/21Jul16L.pdf>

Green Lacewing (*Chrysopa* sp.)

Featured on 18th June 2021:

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-06/21Jun18L.pdf>

Carolina Mantid (*Stagmomantis Carolina*)

Featured last week!

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2026-09/26Sep11L.pdf>

Wheel Bugs (*Arilus cristatus*)

Featured on 24th October 2025:

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2025-10/25Oct24L.pdf>



Thread-wasted wasp on thoroughwort.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout.



Mating soldier beetles on thoroughwort.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout.



Green lacewing adult.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout.



A Carolina mantid on a crape myrtle street tree.
Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



Mantid nymph seen on asparagus.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout.



The smaller male wheel bug climbs on top of the female for a slightly risky mating ritual.
Photo: Laura Nixon, UME

Spotted Lanternfly Mating Begins

By Laura Nixon

This week, we saw spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) adults begin their courtship behaviors. At this time of year, female spotted lanternfly start to get fat, yellow bellies, indicating that they are reproductively mature; the other sign that mating is beginning is that the smaller male spotted lanternfly do a courtship “dance” around the females. This dance entails fluffing their wings out and vibrating their wings and abdomens. Spotted lanternfly will begin to lay eggs in the next couple of weeks, and egg laying generally peaks in early to mid-October. They will lay their eggs on tree trunks and branches, building overhangs, building materials, downed logs, and really any convenient stationary surface. Eggs can be scraped; once dislodged the eggs are no longer viable.

Look for adult spotted lanternflies congregating on tree trunks such as tree-of-heaven, maples, and willows.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



For nursery growers, adults can still be treated with labeled insecticides as needed. In the landscape, we don't recommend continuous treatments, as spotted lanternfly will continue to move onto host plants from surrounding areas. A great reason not to spray insecticides into the landscape is that our native predatory insects have started to capture and feed on spotted lanternflies. For example, Chris Hughes (GreenSpace Lawn and Landscape) was happy to cheer on this yellow jacket dealing with a spotted lanternfly adult.



Yellowjacket wasp feeding on adult spotted lanternfly.
Photo: Jeannie Trimble/Herndon



The red structures at the tip of the abdomen are valvifers indicating this spotted lanternfly adult is female.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Crawlers are Active Again

By: Laura Nixon

Crapemyrtle bark scale (CMBS) (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) crawlers have started to emerge from all the ovisacs we've been seeing. For information on the fall and overwintering biology and management options for CMBS, see the [September 4, 2026 IPM Report](#). At our crape myrtle sites in Rockville, we are still seeing active natural enemies, including various predatory lady beetle species and lacewing larvae.



A lacewing larva amid the black sooty mold caused by crapemyrtle bark scale.
Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



Note the pink crawlers coming out from under the felted white female covers and also crawling along the stem.
Photo: Sheena O'Donnell, UME

Box Tree Moth Overlapping Life Stages

By: Laura Nixon

This week, I found four different life stages of box tree moth on one boxwood plant! Whilst scouting in Williamsport, I came across a ~ 3 foot tall boxwood with egg clusters, newly hatched first instar caterpillars feeding, fatter fourth instar caterpillars, and an adult moth! The moth was too quick for me to get a photo. We expect the caterpillars that we are seeing now to feed until they are half developed (around fourth instar) then start to build their overwintering structures (hibernacula), but we will see how this generation progresses. If you have a BTM population, now is a good time to be treating these smaller caterpillars with Bt or a systemic such as chlorantraniliprole.

We were also sent this photo of larger BTM caterpillars feeding on variegated boxwoods in Middletown, DE.

If you are seeing BTM adults or caterpillars, report to us or [MDA](#).



Box tree moth caterpillars feeding on a variegated boxwood in Delaware.

Photo: Ryan Costa, The Davey Tree Expert Company



Two clusters of box tree moth eggs are present on this plant.
Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



Late instar box tree moth larva webbing leaf together (left) and early instar larvae feeding on a layer of the leaf (above).
Photos: Laura Nixon, UME

Goldenrod Bunch Gall

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

As I am sure you have noticed, goldenrods (*Solidago* spp., Asteraceae) are currently in their glory. So many fields, roadsides, and landscapes are just beaming yellow! Goldenrods are amazing attracters of pollinators, predators, parasitoids, wasps, beetles, and more. The biodiversity goldenrods support is impressive. However, one of the insects that goldenrod attracts is the goldenrod bunch gall midge, *Rhopalomyia solidaginis* (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae). The feeding by this midge on goldenrod results in bunches of foliage galls on the branches of goldenrod. This week, Marie Rojas (IPM Scout), found goldenrod bunch gall on plants in Germantown, MD. When she cut a gall in half to see if anything was home, she found the goldenrod bunch gall midge pupa (see image) inside, very exciting.

Goldenrod is a very hardy plant and should be able to tolerate this damage. If you see a lot of galling, you could prune out the galled plant material and remove. Now would be a good time while the pupae are in the galls.



Damage to the buds of goldenrod by the goldenrod bunch gall midge.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



A pupa of a goldenrod bunch gall midge inside a gall from goldenrod.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

A Minor Sawfly Pest

By: Laura Nixon

This week, Marie Rojas (IPM Scout) found mallow sawfly (*Atomacera decepta*) munching on her native Hibiscus; this insect is also referred to as hibiscus sawfly. The larvae of this tiny sawfly feed on leaves of plants in the Mallow family, including hibiscus, marshmallow, and hollyhock. The larvae are loosely gregarious, and will feed in small-ish groups. As small larvae, they strip a layer of leaf tissue, but, as they grow, can skeletonize leaves. The Bug Guy (Dr. Mike Raupp) has a great video on mallow sawfly: <https://youtu.be/seN3v5SwBIw?si=USEnktFZvb4Z4yk2>

This species is a very minor pest, and we generally recommend handpicking larvae that you see. If populations are at damaging levels, spinosad (Conserve) and horticultural oil are good options. When using horticultural oil, it is important to get good coverage of the foliage.



A group of mallow sawflies beginning to skeletonize an hibiscus leaf.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



A close up of the mallow sawfly larva.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

White Grubs in Turf

David Lantz found white grubs in turf in Hagerstown this week. Grubs that damage lawns are the larvae of Japanese beetles, May or June beetles, masked chafer beetles, or Oriental beetles. Apply registered materials if control is needed. University of Maryland Extension has [more information on white grubs](#) online.



Look for grubs in areas of turf that have turned brown.
Photo: David Lantz

Beneficial of the Week

By: Rebecca Waterworth and Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Dustywings – small predators of other small insects

Dustywings (Neuroptera: Coniopterigidae) are relatively small predators and sometimes overlooked. I have only seen the larvae of dustywings a few times. Once was on a maple that had a heavy infestation of gloomy scale (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) where the dustywing was eating the gloomy scale. Dustywing larvae look somewhat like green lacewing larvae (Family: Chrysopidae), which is not surprising since they are “distant cousins”, both in the order Neuroptera. Most entomology textbooks mention that dusty wings are “relatively rare,” however, they may be quite numerous on the trees and shrubs that they frequent. Lab studies have shown that the larvae are voracious predators of several species of mites and crawlers of whiteflies and scale insects. In a field study in citrus groves in Southern California, dustywings were key predators of citrus red mites and provided an acceptable level of control. They are also known to feed on aphids and mealybugs. It makes sense that the dustywing was found on a maple infested with gloomy scale. Its mother laid her eggs where her offspring would get a good meal.

Larvae have a tapered body shape (see image and this [video](#)), similar to green lacewing larvae. However, dustywing larvae have mouthparts that are shaped differently. Rather than the appearance of an alligator with large mandibles that stick out (green lacewing), dustywings possess a smaller sucking tube by which body fluids are quickly “slurped” from prey. Adults have more typical chewing mouthparts. Both adults and larvae are predaceous, often feeding on the same prey, but adults are also known to feed on honeydew. After several stages of development (or instars), larvae pupate inside a silken cocoon on the underside of a leaf. The cocoon is about 3mm in size and could be mistaken as spider webbing. The silk is made in glands in the abdomen but exuded from the body through the anus (see this [video](#)). After several hours of weaving back and forth with its butt, the larva has enclosed itself entirely in silk and the process of metamorphosis begins.

The common name for the family comes from the fact that the adults are covered in a powdery white wax (similar to a whitefly adult), and other common names for these insects include mealy-wings or dusky-wings. Dustywings have a very interesting behavior that leads to this “dusty” appearance. After emerging as an adult, pores on the abdomen start to extrude waxy white ribbons that curl as the ribbon grows longer. When the ribbon curls back on itself, the curled end breaks away, and using its legs, the adult begins to smear the circular curl particles all over its body. The only parts of the body that do not receive a waxy coat are the eyes. Scientists are uncertain as to why dustywings produce wax. However, a waxy layer would certainly help such small insects conserve water. Scientists who study other insects with waxy covers, such as whiteflies, have noticed that wax particles rub off onto parasitoids, and as a result, tiny wasps spend a lot more time grooming to get the wax



An adult dustywing measures only about 3 mm. While superficially similar to adult whiteflies, dustywings are larger overall and have longer antennae.

Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD



A late stage larva of a dustywing (~5 mm long). Note the tapered shape of the body. Larvae are voracious predators of mites, crawlers of scales and whiteflies, and other soft bodied insects.

Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD

off rather parasitizing whiteflies. For whiteflies, the wax acts as a protective barrier. Wax is also known to help other predatory insects blend in and avoid predation or harassment by other predators.

If you were to encounter an adult dustywing in the landscape, you might at first think that it was a large whitefly. When disturbed, adult dustywings dart and flutter and eventually rest on the underside of leaves. When bothered too often, they flutter, drop to the ground, and fake death! A whitefly is much smaller than a dustywing. Recall that dustywings are also predators of whiteflies. If you disturb leaves on your plants, and small white insects fly out from beneath, always take a second look to see what it might be. You may be surprised to see little predators already hard at work eating their prey.

Weed of the Week

By: Dr. Dan Buonaiuto

This week's weed, Two-horn Trapa (*Trapa bispinosa*) is a relatively new, aquatic plant invader that several county and state agencies are jumping into action to try to eradicate from Maryland before it gets fully established. While not usually found in nursery settings, Two-horn Trapa can invade golf course water features and irrigation or stormwater ponds.

Two-horn Trapa was recently found in Ammendale (Beltsville) in a stormwater pond right off of Route 1 in Prince George's County, which has prompted calls to scout for, and report this plant.



Figure 1: Two-horn trapa leaves.
Photo: Damien Ossi

Two-horn Trapa Identification:

- ☐ This annual **aquatic plant** can be found in lakes, ponds or slow moving streams floating on the water surface.
- ☐ **Leaves** are triangular and saw-toothed with long stems. Leaf undersides are often red (Figure 1). The leaves float on the water surface, forming a circular rosette pattern. The rosettes are up to 14 inches wide.
- ☐ Small, pink 4-petaled **flowers** can be found June through fall (Figure 2).
- ☐ Mature **seeds** are greenish, 1.25-2 inches wide with two spines “horns” and appear July through fall. The horns are covered with retrorse barbs and are quite sharp, they can pierce shoes, gloves and bicycle tires.
- ☐ **Old seed hulls** are black and can be found at any time (Figure 3).

Two-horn Trapa Ecology:

Two-horn trapa forms dense mats on the water's surface that crowd other plants and animals. It has a negative impact on recreation—making boating, fishing and swimming extremely difficult, and damages infrastructure by clogging stormwater ponds. Seeds are likely spread between bodies of water by water fowl.

Two-horn trapa was first found in Northern Virginia in 2014; how it got here is unknown. As of this year it has been reported in ~200 waterbodies in the region.

Two-horn Trapa Control:

There is currently both funding and capacity to treat two-horn trapa infestations in Maryland, so best thing you can do right now is scout for this species and report it.

If you are in Prince George's County and manage land that includes ponded systems (larger stormwater ponds, golf ponds etc) please report any suspected findings to PG county's Vegetation Ecologist, Kerry Wixstead (kerry.wixted@pgparks.com) with a photo and location. If you visit a pond and are able to walk the length of it and do not see any Two-horn Trapa, you can also report that to Kerry—reported absences are very helpful for tracking the spread of invasive species.

If you are elsewhere in the state you can report it to me at dbuona@umd.edu and I will make sure your report gets to the right place.



Figure 2: Flower, leaves and seeds of Two-horn Trapa
Photo: Sara Tangren



Figure 3: Two-horn trapa seed hull.
Photo: Sara Tangren

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Agastache 'Blue Boa' also goes by the name giant hyssop or hummingbird mint and thrives in very well drained soils in full sun. This herbaceous perennial plant is in the mint family and grows in an upright habit 2-3 feet tall and 1-1 ½ feet wide. The serrated, 2-inch-long green foliage has a wonderful mint fragrance that helps keep the deer and rabbits from feeding on it. The tiny tubular, blue purple flowers are also fragrant and grow on the 6-inch terminal spikes and are visited by many pollinators. Each flower spike has up to 8-12 false whorls. Flowers will bloom from June to September or the first frost. 'Blue Boa' is a compact plant that is very capable of tolerating the heat and droughts of summers in Maryland, and can be planted in a pollinator garden, butterfly

gardens, a drought tolerant garden or in meadows and naturalized areas. Plants are cold tolerant in USDA zones 5-9, and although it can sometimes get powdery mildew or leaf spots, it's only real problem is crown or root rot when planted in poorly drained soils.



Agastache 'Blue Boa' is a pollinator plant for late summer insects
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 **3129 DD** (Clarksville) to **4199 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.

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 September 16, 2026)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3775
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	3737
Belcamp (FS836)	3675
Clarksville (001MD)	3129
College Park (KCGS)	3859
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	3769
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	3916
Frederick (KFDK)	3419
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3597
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	3366
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3460
Millersville (MD026)	3747
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	4199
Perry Hall (C0608)	3504
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3733
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	3946
Westminster (KDMW)	3726

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

[2026 Urban Tree Summit](#)

September 23, 2026

Location: Silver Spring Civic Center, Silver Spring, MD

[2026 Cut Flower Program](#)

September 29, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD (lectures), and Tanglewood Flower Farm, Ashton, MD (tour)

UME IPM Pest Walk at Salisbury University

October 14, 2026 (11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Location: Salisbury University's Glenda Chatha Clarke Arboretum, Salisbury, MD

[FALCAN Truck & Trailer Safety Seminar](#)

October 14, 2026

Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD

Registration opens in July.

Maryland Turfgrass Conference

December 15, 2026

Location: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

December Integrated Pest Management Conference

Date and location will be posted when confirmed.

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

Maryland Arborists' Association Conference

January 12, 2027 (snow date in January 13, 2027)

Location: Howard Community College, Columbia, MD

FALCAN Pest Management Conference

January 22, 2027 (snow date is March 12, 2027)

Location: Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD

LCA Pest Management Conference

January 28, 2027

Location: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

2027 Manor View Farm & Perennial Farm Education Seminar

February 2, 2027. Valley Mansion, Cockeysville MD

Laura Nixon is speaking at this event.

Chesapeake Green Horticultural Conference

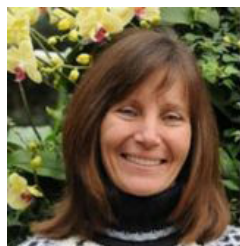
February 11 and 12, 2027

Location: Maritime Institute and Conference Center, Linthicum Heights, MD

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

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

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