

Commercial Horticulture

September 25, 2026

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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 Buonaiuto, (Assistant Professor), Dept. of Plant Sciences and Architecture
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Design, Layout and Editing: Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)

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 Derx, Chesapeake Flower Exchange Founding Memeber)

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>

UMD Insect Zoo Fund

Please support the Insect Zoo and its mission to bring Science to kids in Title 1 Schools. To donate use the QR code below or click [Donate here](#).



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ENTOMOLOGY

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Black Vine Weevil Adult Damage on Schip Laurel

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

On Thursday of this week, a photo of heavy leaf notching damage on Schip laurel, *Prunus lauroceracus* ‘Chestnut Hill’, was submitted by Chrissy Moore, U.S. National Arboretum. The damage was likely caused by adults of black vine weevil, *Otiorhynchus sulcatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). Both the adults and soil active larvae can be damaging. It is the larvae that cause the most severe damage sometimes resulting in death of its host. Larvae feed on the roots and plant crown at the soil line. In this case, because adult damage appears to be heavy, I recommended the client inspect the crown, and if possible the roots of the plant for larval feeding damage; also watch the top of the plant for signs of drought stress that are symptoms of larval damage.

For detailed information on black vine weevil biology, management, and host plants refer to the [UME Black vine weevil fact sheet \(FS-805\)](#).



Leaf notching damage to a Schip Laurel, *Prunus lauroceracus* ‘Chestnut Hill’ likely caused by black vine weevil adults.

Photo submitted by: Chrissy Moore, U.S. National Arboretum

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Alternate Hosts

By: Laura Nixon

We frequently report on the invasive crapemyrtle bark scale (CMBS) (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) on its primary host, crape myrtles. However, it is worth noting that damaging-level populations of CMBS have been reported on St John’s Wort (*Hypericum sp.*), *Spiraea* spp. (including bridal wreath and Japanese spiraea), and American beauty berry. This week, Dave Freeman (Oaktree Property Care) sent us photos of mixed CMBS life stages on Japanese Spiraea in Virginia. At this time of year, we still have some egg sacs, a handful of crawlers (which can be treated), and later instars settling down and preparing to overwinter.



Various stages of crapemyrtle bark scale on spirea.
Photo: David Freman, Oaktree Property Care

Spotted Lanternfly Should Be Laying Eggs Anytime Now

By: Paula Shrewsbury and Laura Nixon, UMD

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) are expected to start laying the first eggs of the season this month. In 2025 the first egg masses were reported around Sept. 12th, and in 2024 the first egg masses were reported the week of September 27th. Egg laying generally peaks in early to mid-October.

You should be monitoring for the presence of egg masses. They will lay their eggs on tree trunks and branches, building overhangs, building materials, downed logs, and any convenient stationary surface. SLF will continue to lay eggs until the first hard frost which will kill the adults. Recent research has shown that ~ 50% of egg masses laid on trees are in reach of people. Therefore, a control tactic is to remove egg masses before they hatch in the spring (by late April). Eggs can be scraped; once dislodged the eggs are no longer viable. 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, LNixon1@umd.edu, and sklick@umd.edu) and let us know the date found, where, and on what plants.

If you have high populations of adult SLF consider control before they start laying eggs.



Egg masses of spotted lanternfly on a trunk of a tree. Note that some are covered with a protective covering of a white-grey putty-like material, while others are not covered and you can see the distinct rows of eggs.

Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Black Swallowtail Caterpillars: Consume plants in the carrot family

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Earlier this week Bill Miller, The Azalea Works, sent in images of several Eastern black swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes* (Papilionidae), caterpillars busy consuming his parsley and lovage. Black swallowtails are native and their caterpillars feed on a range of fragrant herb plants in the Apiaceae family (formerly called Umbelliferae; a.k.a. the carrot family) such as carrots, dill, cilantro, fennel, celery, anise, and caraway. Although black swallowtail butterflies can consume much of your parsley and dill (and its other host plants), it is hard to call such a beautiful caterpillar and its pollinating adult butterfly a pest. Every year I plant extra parsley and dill hoping for the opportunity to share it with black swallowtail caterpillars.



Black swallowtail larva on dill.

Photo: Mike Raupp, UMD, Bug of the Week

An interesting fact about black swallowtail caterpillars are their ability, when disturbed or threatened, to evert their defensive glands - a pair of orange “horns” (osmeteria) from just behind its head. Osmeteria are a defensive mechanism in that the sudden appearance of the bright orange horns may startle a predator, in addition the osmeteria also emit a bitter compound to deter predators.

The adult butterflies and caterpillars of this species are quite beautiful and fun to watch. Be sure to always plant extra parsley and other herbs in the Apiaceae family so you have enough to share with the black swallowtail caterpillars.

[Click here for a video of an early instar \(bird poop mimic\) and late instar black swallowtail feeding on parsley](#) (By: Mike Raupp, UMD, Bug of the Week)

[Click here for a video of a black swallowtail caterpillar everting its osmeteria \(defensive orange “horns”\).](#) (By: Mike Raupp, UMD, Bug of the Week)



Several black swallowtail caterpillars feeding on parsley.

Photo: Bill Miller, The Azalea Works



Defensive glands known as osmeteria that the black swallowtail caterpillar everts when disturbed.

Photo: Lynette Elliott, BugGuide, Photo#28634



Early instar black swallowtail larva mimics bird droppings as its defense.

Photo from <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/black-swallowtail-papilio-polyxenes/>

Fall Caterpillars and Butterflies

By: Suzanne Klick

This is the time of year when we see a lot of caterpillars searching for their overwintering or pupation sites. Some will overwinter as mid to late instar caterpillars, others need to pupate to overwinter, and some like monarchs and common buckeyes will leave the area as adults and overwinter in areas south of Maryland.



The banded tussock moth overwinters in the pupal stage in leaf litter, under loose bark, or on the ground near host trees.

Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care



A smeared dagger moth caterpillar was found near a pond feeding on herbaceous plants and Willows in New Castle, DE. It will overwinter as a cocoon in leaves or debris. Photo: George Wright, IV, The Davey Tree Expert Company



Woollybear caterpillars overwinter as late instars; the orange banding increases with each molt.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Fall webworms overwinter in the pupal stage.

Photo: David Freeman, Oaktree Property Care



The well-known monarch butterfly needs to reach maturity to migrate to Mexico in the fall.

Photos: Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care



Locust Borers

By: Laura Nixon

Locust borer (*Megacyllene robiniae*) adults are fairly active at this time of year, and we have seen them on goldenrod this week. Although you will see this beetle nectaring on various flowers, they are only a pest of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). The adults are currently mating, and females are laying eggs on black locust trunks, generally in cracks and under loose bark. These eggs will hatch and the larvae will tunnel into the trees to feed and develop. The borers tend to be attracted to stressed trees, so the best way to combat this borer is to maintain the health of your tree. This is not a species for which we generally recommend chemical treatments.



Black locust borer adults can often be found nectaring on goldenrod flowers in the fall.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Andromeda Lace Bugs

By: Laura Nixon

Dave Freeman (Oaktree Property Care) sent us photos this week of andromeda lace bug (*Stephanitis takeyai*) on Japanese andromeda (*Pieris japonica*). Lace bugs feed and reproduce on the underside of host plant leaves; they insert their sucking mouthparts into the leaves to feed, causing stippling and chlorosis. They also excrete large amounts of frass, which are the dark spots you can see alongside the bugs. These photos show the spiky nymphs of lace bugs; this would be a good chance to treat with a chemical, such as cyantraniliprole (ex. Mainspring) or flupyradifurone (ex. Altus), or horticultural oil before adults develop and lay eggs into the midveins of the leaves. Andromeda lace bug overwinters as eggs, so this would minimize next year's population. If you are also seeing adult lace bugs, I would recommend plucking off the leaves to get rid of any eggs that were already laid. Mountain andromeda (*Pieris floribunda*) is highly resistant to lace bugs, so is a good alternative to Japanese andromeda.



Andromeda lace bug nymphs and fecal spots.

Photo: Dave Freeman, Oaktree Property Care

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Stilt bugs – long legs have their advantages

This week Mike Raupp (UMD) was taking pictures of box tree moth in Sharpsburg, MD and to his surprise he came across a **stilt bug** (a.k.a. **berytid bug**). Stilt bugs are predatory true bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) in the family Berytidae. Stilt bugs are not commonly seen in landscapes, but it is not unusual to see one either.

There are about 170 species worldwide. The [Maryland Biodiversity website](#) lists 5 species (from 4 different genera) of stilt bugs found in MD (*Berytinus minor*, *Jalysus spinosus*, *J. wickhami*, *Neoneides muticus*, and *Metacanthus multispinus*). In addition to their namesake of long, thin legs, they also have long thin antennae, and the body is elongate and slender. The antennae are elbowed (bend at a specific segment) and have a small “knob” on the tip that can be used to distinguish stilt bugs from other slender bodied, long-legged insects. Depending on species, stilt bugs can be brown or green in color and adults are 5-9 mm (0.2-0.4”) in length. Adults and nymphs are similar in appearance, except nymphs will not have fully developed wings. All stilt bugs are omnivores in that they feed on plant tissue in that they drink plant sap as a source of moisture. A number of species of stilt bugs are considered pests of crops such as cacao, tobacco, and tomato. Some species are plant generalists, such as *J. wickhami* which is found on over 4 dozen species of plants. While *J. spinosus* is a specialist and is mainly found on grasses. Many species of stilt bugs prefer to feed on glandular hairy leaved plants. The long, slender legs of stilt bugs help them to move about on plants covered in glandular trichomes (hairs) that often tend to trap most insects. In some cases, stilt bug feeding results in flowers turning black and dying which prevents fruit set, whereas in other cases no plant damage is caused.

There are also a number of species that are important predators known to feed on aphids, hornworm eggs and larvae, leafhoppers, thrips, insect eggs, and other pests that are small in size (Henry and Froeschner, 1998). For example, the spined stilt bug, *J. wickhami*, is the most abundant predator in tobacco (hairy leaved) providing biological control of several pests (NCSU Ext). *Jalysus wickhami* has been reared and released in



Stilt bug adult (Berytidae) on the leaf of a zinnia plant.
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD



A close up of a stilt bug (Berytidae) adult showing its long antennae with a knob at the end and its extremely long legs that help it to walk across leaves with hairy surfaces and not get caught.

Photo: Michael Raupp, UMD

tobacco as a biological control agent in NC. It is also found in tomatoes, another hairy leaved plant. Studies have shown that planting alyssum (flowering annual) alongside fields of tomatoes increased predatory stilt bug populations.

For an interesting video of mating stilt bugs (by M.J. Raupp, UMD) [click here](#).



Stilt bug nymphs (Berytidae) on the bud of a plant with glandular trichomes (hairs). Their long legs help them to avoid getting stuck on the plant.

Photo: Michael Raupp, UMD

Weed of the Week

By: Kelly Nichols

Purple or Livid Amaranth

This week, while walking around our turfgrass research farm near College Park, I encountered a pigweed species that I was not familiar with. Purple, or livid, amaranth (*Amaranthus blitum*) is a summer annual pigweed that can show up in beds, borders, container areas, and disturbed sites. While we do have it here in Maryland, it is not as common as our “typical” pigweed species (redroot and smooth).

All pigweeds have a notch at the tip of the leaf, but purple amaranth can be distinguished from other pigweed species by its much deeper notch (Figure 1). Purple amaranth also has a much more branching or prostrate growth habit compared to the other pigweed species. Leaves are alternate along the stem. Stems can be green or red. There are no hairs on the stems or leaves (Figure 2). Flowers form a large spike at the top of the plant. The seeds are very small (around 1mm), black, and round.



Figure 1. Purple amaranth has a deep notch at the tip of the leaves.

Photo: Kelly Nichols, University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County

Good cultural management practices such as maintaining proper soil fertility, mowing height, and promoting a healthy and competitive turf or landscape will help reduce the presence of weeds like purple amaranth. Non-selective herbicides like glyphosate can be used in nursery and landscape settings. In turf and landscape, many broadleaf herbicides can be used pre- and post-emergent for control. Use caution when selecting herbicides, as some products are volatile (e.g., 2,4-D and dicamba) and can cause damage to desired plants.

The two pictures below are ones I took showing the deep notch in the leaf and no hairs. The best pictures I found of the growth habit are from [Mississippi State University](#).



Figure 2. Purple amaranth does not have hairs on the stem or leaves.

Photo: Kelly Nichols, University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County

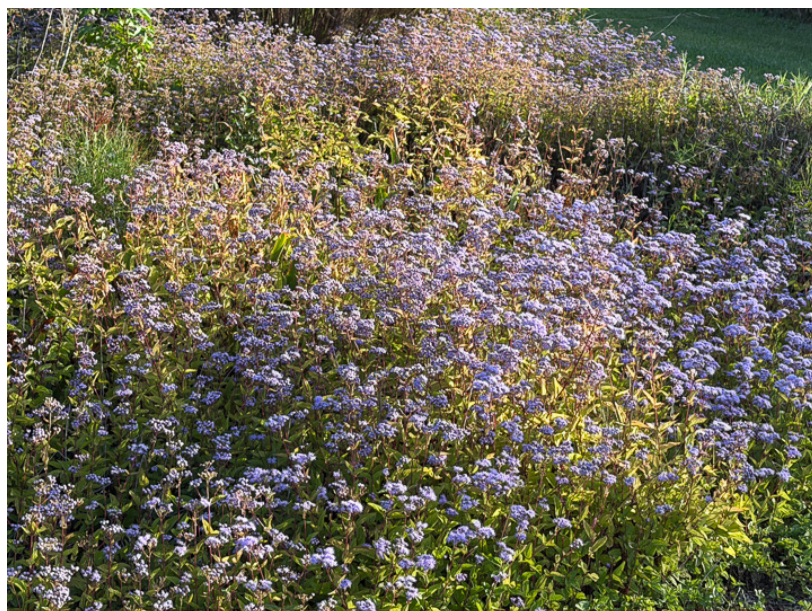
Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Conoclinium coelestinum is commonly known as the blue mist flower or hardy ageratum. It is a native herbaceous perennial that resembles the annual ageratum and is a member of the aster family. It is an upright spreading perennial that in mid-summer to late fall and thrive in full sun to part shade and need moist, rich soils that do not dry out. The small, tubular, fluffy bright blue to violet flowers are held in flat clusters that are carried on top of purplish stems. The stamens extend beyond the florets, giving each flower cluster its soft, fuzzy appearance. The bright green leaves are coarsely toothed, 3 inches long and are arranged opposite each other along the green to purple stems. The plants can grow 1 to 3 feet tall and wide and spread aggressively by both rhizomes and self-seeding to create colonies. The flowers bloom at a time when bees are stocking up for the winter and butterflies are migrating. Monarch, Eastern tiger swallowtail, cloudless sulphur, pearl crescent and many skipper species are common visitors along with native bees and honeybees. The fluffy, wind dispersed seeds are loved by native birds like Goldfinch



and various sparrows. Plants are cold tolerant in USDA zones 7-10 and can be seen a ground cover in moist woodland edges, roadside ditches and along creek edges. It can be planted in native gardens, pollinator gardens and butterfly gardens.



Blue mist flower is a good pollinator plant for late season 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 **3249 DD** (Clarksville) to **4353 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 23, 2026)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3947	Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3884
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	3883	St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	4102
Belcamp (FS836)	3819	Westminster (KDMW)	3842
Clarksville (001MD)	3249		
College Park (KCGS)	4003		
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	3908		
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	4066		
Frederick (KFDK)	3544		
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3729		
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	3494		
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3587		
Millersville (MD026)	3888		
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	4353		
Perry Hall (C0608)	3633		

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 Cut Flower Program

September 29, 2026

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

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=oddttdcreator>

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

Eastern Shore Pest Management Conference
February 16, 2027
Location: Wicomico Civic Center, Salisbury, MD

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