Welcome to our new newsletter for current issues in the landscape and garden. This newsletter is aimed at the home horticulture/master gardener audience. We will try to get it out twice monthly during the growing season. Mary Kay Malinoski and Dave Clement are coordinating it and please send any contributions to us. Jon Traunfeld will be contributing fruit and vegetable tips.

**Current Observations in the Landscape:**

Insects and Other Pests by Mary Kay Malinoski, Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center (unless otherwise noted).

**Honeylocust plant bug and pod gall midge**
The honeylocust plant bug is pale green with wings held flat on the back. Immature bugs look just like the adults, only smaller and with short wing bugs. The immature plant bugs feed on emerging leaflets in spring causing them to become distorted with yellow blotches. Eventually the distorted leaves (see above photo) turn brown and fall off. Adults appear around May and are gone by the end of June. If adults are abundant in June, spray with a 2% horticultural oil. Trees will outgrow the damage if good growing conditions are present.

Honeylocust pod gall midge is a native insect that occurs wherever honeylocust is grown. Female midges (1/8 inch long and black) lay eggs in developing leaves at budbreak. The maggots hatch and cause the leaflets to swell into pod galls that eventually turn brown and drop to the ground. Maggots are yellow and about ¼ inch long when mature.) You may see some defoliation and dieback. Rake up and destroy galls that fall to the ground to help reduce the population. Damaged leaves can be pruned off while still green. There are several generations a summer. Spinosad can be used to help control the midges.

![Honeylocust pod gall midge adult](image1)

*Honeylocust pod gall midge adult.* Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

![Honeylocust pod gall midge larvae inside of the gall](image2)

*Honeylocust pod gall midge larvae inside of the gall.* Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University
Hibiscus Sawfly is chewing up perennial Hibiscus
Sawflies resemble caterpillars but have more than 5 pairs of prolegs on the abdomen. The adult is small and black with with a red spot and smoky wings. The larvae are pale green with a dark head. Heavy infestations may cause complete defoliation. Light infestations may be controlled by manually removing and destroying the sawflies.

Leafcutter bee damage – nothing to worry about
Leafcutter bees resemble small bumblebees. They cut circular pieces of leaves from plants such as rose and azalea. The bees use the pieces of leaves as a lining and plug for their egg cells. Leafcutter bees are solitary and nest in rotten wood, hollow stems of plants, holes in solid wood, or in other protected natural cavities. They do little damage.
Leafcutter bee damage on oak  Leafcutter bee adult

Emerald Ash Borer is out flying!! Keep an eye out for them around ash trees and report any sighting.

Emerald Ash Borer adult feeding on ash leaf  Fresh D-shaped exit hole 1/8” across

Japanese beetles are out feeding in the landscape and garden. They particularly like rose, linden and grape.
Lace bugs feeding on a variety of trees and shrubs
Lace bugs are small plant-feeding bugs. Most species are about 3/16 inch long when mature. They feed on a wide variety of plants. The immatures or nymphs, lack wings and are usually spiny. Most lace bugs live on the lower surface of leaves and deposit their black eggs there. Feeding damage first appears as white stippling or tiny white spots. These spots later merge and leaves turn yellow. Also look for black or brown fecal spots they deposit on the undersides of leaves. Severe infestations may cause premature leaf drop.

Lace bugs and damage on Harry Lauder walking stick

Lace bug damage on azalea

Lace bugs and damage on service berry

Close-up of adult lace bug
There are plenty of beneficial spiders and insects out in the landscape now. Here are just a few and don’t harm them!

- Cute little jumping spider
- Camouflaged wolf spider
- Syrphid fly: their larvae feed on aphids.
- Ladybird beetle feeding on a soft scale eggmass
- Praying mantid nymph
- Assassin bug nymph
Yikes are those termites! - Carolyn Puckett, Carroll County Master Gardener

This is the alarmed reaction any homeowner might have when seeing small black flying insects swarming in the house. However, those critters might be flying ants instead of termites. How do you tell? Look for the following characteristics:

**Termite swarmer**
- Straight antennae
- Two pairs of wings of equal length
- Thick waist

**Ant:**
- Elbowed antennae
- Two pairs of wings of unequal length if it has wings
- Narrow waist

And what if they are termites? Termites can be brought under control by either creating a pesticide barrier or by using termite baits. For information about these treatments see “Termites: Prevention, Detection, Control” at http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_images/programs/hgic/Publications/non_HGIC_FS/EB245_Termites.pdf. For more information on identifying termites, see http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/lab-news/winged-ants-vs-termites.html.

Diseases and Weeds by David Clement, Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center (unless otherwise noted).

**Anthracnose Leaf Diseases**
These diseases are characterized by discrete lesions that are usually found along leaf veins. In severe cases these lesions may run together and kill the entire leaf. Young leaves may become distorted as healthy tissue continues to grow around dead areas. Under optimum disease conditions the entire tree may be defoliated in the spring or early summer. Infection may proceed from the leaf blade down the petiole (leaf stem) into the small twigs at the tips of the tree branches. The pathogen may over winter in the twigs until the infection cycle starts over the next spring. Common examples are oak anthracnose, maple anthracnose, and sycamore anthracnose.
Sycamore anthracnose in the blight phase

Sycamore recovering from anthracnose

Horsechesnut anthracnose

Beech anthracnose

Oak anthracnose

Walnut anthracnose
Trees Made to Suffer: – Steve Allgeier, Extension Educator, Carroll County

Foliar diseases have made this a difficult spring for shade and ornamental trees in the Central Maryland area, with some trees getting beaten up more than others. Anthracnose has been the main culprit, a foliar disease, causing browning leaves and subsequent defoliation in many shade trees. It has been rampant in ash, white (including chestnut) oak, sycamore (london plane), and maple trees this past spring. However, there are times I stop and marvel at the apparent suffering of some individual trees, such as this sycamore (london plane tree) found on Main Street in Westminster. See the list of injustices for this tree listed below:

As hard as this tree has it, this Sycamore, will in all probability, bounce back by producing new growth and soldier on for years to come.

The top:
Virtually complete loss of foliage due to anthracnose and crown pruning.

The middle:
Significant limb loss from recent utility right-of-way pruning.

The lower trunk:
Resurgent English ivy growth in spite of recent removal efforts and several vehicle strikes to lower trunk from errant cars and trucks. As an urban tree, many times you are at a distinct disadvantage when located near a bar/restaurant, because of errant vehicles.

The ground and below:
More English ivy, plus a severely restricted root zone. Pavement, sidewalks and buildings creates considerable amount of impervious surfaces that are probably covering 95% of the root zone. This inhibits water to roots and gas exchange of the roots.

Please send all submissions, including photos to Mary Kay Malinoski, mkmal@umd.edu or to David L. Clement, clement@umd.edu, by Tuesday of each week so that we can get the newsletter out by Thursday. Thanks and please contribute!