Welcome to our new newsletter for current issues in the landscape and garden. This newsletter is aimed at the home horticulture/master gardener audience. Mary Kay Malinoski and Dave Clement are coordinating it and please send any contributions to us.

Insects and Other Pests by Mary Kay Malinoski, Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center

Just when you thought you had enough with brown marmorated stink bug, here comes another one! Kudzu bugs are in Maryland and spreading.

- Arrived in Georgia in 2009
- Currently in southern Virginia and spreading rapidly
- Attracted to white surfaces, but do not enter structures
- Feed on all legumes
- Prefer kudzu and soybeans
- This infestation is originally from Japan and likely entered US in Atlanta
- Easy to kill with insecticides

Detailed information on the bug can be found at [kudzubug.org](http://kudzubug.org). Also, the Lamp lab in the Entomology Department at the University of Maryland has a research project on the bug and needs help locating kudzu patches and kudzu bug sightings. Their web site is: [mdkudzubug.org](http://mdkudzubug.org).

Kudzu bugs on a soybean leaf
Kudzu bugs are attracted to white surfaces and mass on them in the fall
Japanese cedar longhorned beetle is a new pest in the landscape.

**Adult female beetle**

**Exit hole, tunnels and frass from infested Arborvitae**

**Adult in branch getting ready to emerge**

**Scattered dieback symptoms of infested branches in Arborvitae**

- The beetle attacks Arborvitae, *Cryptomeria*, False cypress, Leyland Cypress, and in eastern redcedar (North Carolina). Other listed hosts include *Chamaecyparis*, *Thujopsis*, Juniper, Monterey cypress, firs, and pine. Damage appears as dead branches as small as a pencil to main trunks.
- Arrived in dunnage, wood products, and nursery stock from east Asia.
- One generation, adults overwinter in host and emerge in early spring.
- Females lay yellowish eggs in bark crevices.
- Larvae feed in the stems forming shallow serpentine galleries just beneath the bark.
- Beetles pupate in the fall and overwinter as adults inside the host.
- **Control:** remove and destroy infested material. No specific insecticides listed for control.
There are still plenty of butterflies out in the landscape now. Joe pye weed, milkweed, ironweed, and bronze fennel are great plants to attract butterflies and beneficial wasps into your yard.

Here is a picture of a male black swallowtail which is one of the parents of the parsleyworms below. The butterfly likes to feed on milkweeds, New York ironweed, thistles, butterfly bush, and zinnia.

Young parsleyworm caterpillar on the right resembles a bird dropping as protection from predation. Notice the color difference in the older instar above.
Monarch butterfly feeding on joe pye weed

Monarch caterpillar feeding on wild milkweed.

Question mark butterfly

Question mark caterpillar feeding on nettles
Interesting finds in the landscape!

Unsuspecting dinner guests – yellow-necked caterpillars feeding on oak

Dinner host – praying mantid feeding on one of the guests

Here are a couple of critters that you don’t want to pick up (irritating hairs and spines). In other words, don’t mess with hairy or spiny unless you are wearing leather gloves.

White-marked tussock moth caterpillar has a large host range

Saddleback caterpillar has some nasty spines and also has a wide host range
Had a face full of spider webs yet? One of these was probably the culprit who built the web.

Yellow argiope is big and makes a really big web! It can catch just about anything that flies into its web.

“This Expectant orb weaver” that will lay her egg sacs soon!

Garden spiders such as the Black and Yellow Argiope are Orb-Weaving spiders. Orb weavers produce a neat, flat, classic spider web. The web is used to capture prey as these spiders have poor vision. There are more than 2,500 species of orb weavers in the United States, but one of the most recognizable is the Black and Yellow Argiope. They are large and marked with black and yellow. The web may be up to 2 feet in diameter and stretched across a path, between shrubs or across tall weeds. Other orb-weavers are various colors, shapes, and sizes. Their webs can span many feet. We have webs that are

This is one of many orb weavers that seem to be everywhere!

An orb weaver with an unfortunate honey bee. Everyone has to eat!
at least 10 feet across between posts at our building. They are great at catching all kinds of insects including stink bugs that happen to stumble into their webs and unfortunately the occasional butterfly.

**Wolf spiders** are very cool spiders..big, hairy, and fast! They are starting to move into homes for the winter. Please capture them and release them outdoors. They will not survive in homes. They have very good vision and hunt down prey day and night. They do not make webs because they are hunting spiders. The colors range from black and white to earth tones. The color may be uniform or patterned. The size varies from 1/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches in body length with a leg span of 3 inches. They are very impressive and great hunters. Don’t kill them!!

Check out these fuzzy aphids! They are parasitized by a fungus that attacks insects.
Sooty mold is an indicator that you have a sucking insect problem such as a soft scale like lecanium scales on willow oak.

Lecanium scales are soft scales which are sucking insects that attack a wide variety of trees. Heavy infestations may cause leaf yellowing, stunting and dieback. They produce honeydew and sooty mold, which may be present on leaves below infested branches. Parasites generally provide control of many scale infestations. To protect parasites, avoid spraying with insecticides during the summer. If treatment is necessary, spray the tree with a dormant rate of horticultural oil during the dormant season to control overwintering scales.

Bacterial leaf scorch on oak

Bacterial leaf scorch is a relatively new disease of shade trees in Maryland and affects a large number of shade trees. We see it mostly on pin and red oaks. The pathogen is a bacterium that grows inside the plant’s vascular tissue where it blocks water movement from the roots. The organism, *Xylella fastidiosa*, is a small gram negative bacterium with no flagella. This bacterium is spread by plant hoppers called sharpshooters, treehoppers and spittlebugs that feed on infected plants and after feeding the bacterium will spread systemically through the vascular system. Symptoms typically appear in mid to late summer on lower branches as irregular marginal browning on interior leaves.
Management: There are no treatments that will cure bacterial leaf scorch. However, infected trees may continue to persist in the landscape if symptomatic branches and dead wood is pruned out promptly. Antibiotic trunk injections are very expensive, only relieve symptoms and don’t provide a cure.

What’s that white stuff on my plants and trees? It’s powdery mildew!

Powdery mildew is the common name for the disease and symptoms caused by a closely related group of fungi. Infection is rarely lethal, but does cause leaf yellowing and browning, leaf distortion, early fall coloration, premature leaf drop, and blemished or aborted flowers and slower-than-normal growth. On a cool evenings the fungal spores absorb enough moisture from the air to germinate and cause infection.

Management strategies: Control begins with selection of plants resistant to powdery mildew. Place susceptible plants where there is adequate sunlight and good air circulation to reduce humidity levels. Allow proper plant spacing for the same reasons. Pruning for better air circulation also may help.
Who knew? Turfgrass gets rust!

Rust symptoms on Tall Fescue turf, most likely caused by *Puccinia coronata*. Rust outbreaks are most common in late summer and early fall. Rust is a disease of slow growing turf, so factors that contribute to poor growth tend to favor rust development. These factors include summer heat and drought stress, low nitrogen fertility, compaction, and shade. Rust can also severely damage new spring-seeded lawns that lose vigor during heat and drought conditions.

Management is best achieved by maintaining a healthy and vigorous turf stand and well maintained turf typically out grows the damage from the disease. Avoiding early evening irrigation also will help limit disease spread by lessening the chance of extended dew periods. DMI and QoI (strobilurin) fungicides are very effective against rust, but on well-established turf, should be considered only as a remedial treatment when cultural practices fail to prevent an outbreak.
Speaking of turf, come to the University of Maryland Fall Turfgrass Field Day on October 23rd at the Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Farm. R.S.V.P. by October 16th to Tom Turner at turner@umd.edu. There is a charge of $15 which includes lunch. It starts at 11AM.

Why is my cherry turning yellow and losing leaves? It’s a disease called Cherry Shot Hole on Flowering Cherry

Although shot holes in leaves are not definitively diagnostic the most common shot hole leaf disease of flowering cherry in the landscape is caused by the fungus Blumeriella jaapii. This fungus overwinters on fallen leaves and causes new leaf infections as they have nearly finished expanding in the spring. Wet spring weather encourages disease severity and warm rains will spread the fungal spores throughout the tree. Leaf spots appear initially as purple spots that eventually turn reddish brown. New spots continue to appear through late summer. Severe spotting will cause browning and the foliage will turn yellow and defoliate. The characteristic shot hole symptom occurs when a brown border forms around the infected spot and the center falls out.

Management: On ornamental flowering cherries frequent scheduled sprays for fungal diseases are not recommended. Although unsightly in wet years these diseases usually do not have a major impact on the overall health of infected trees.
Brown spots on the leaves eventually fall out leaving holes in the leaves

Just for fun! Can you name this mushroom? (hint it glows in the dark)

Please send all submissions, including photos to Mary Kay Malinoski, mkmal@umd.edu or to David L. Clement, clement@umd.edu. Thanks and please contribute!