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. Please send any contributions to us.

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

Evidence of winter still lingers. Wait until new growth before pruning or removing seemingly dead plants!

Winter damage on juniper

Winter damage on Camellia

Winter damage on English ivy

Winter damage on Viola
Winter leaf scorch on Rhododendron

Winter damage to Nandina

Winter leaf scorch on holly

Winter burn on boxwood

Danthonia (Danthonia spicata), is found in dry, shady locations with acidic soil. It may even be in your lawn since it is native over a broad portion of the United States. Notice the characteristic curly old leaves.
Eastern tent caterpillars are growing quickly. Keep an eye out for their tents in wild cherry, crabapple, and other hosts. Try to put up with them because they serve as important food source for baby birds. The trees will recover from any damage. The tents are getting very noticeable and the caterpillars are getting big!

This should be a banner year for grubs especially if you had a problem last year. It is too early to treat. Be patient because the soil is still cold. Make sure grubs are actively feeding and that you have grub damage. If you only have them in a small area or spotty areas, just treat those areas. Grubex (Chlorantraniliprole) also known as Acelypryn, is the safest grub material and has the longest application window for timing. Grubs are the larvae (young) of a number of beetles including Japanese beetles, Oriental beetles, masked chafers, etc.
Time to remove bagworms on Arborvitae and other evergreens. Toss the bags in the trash.

Sapsucker damage on Norway spruce

A new insect to be on the lookout for: Spotted Lanternfly. Our neighbors to the north in PA are dealing with this new pest from China.

Adult with colorful wings
Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Adult at rest is one inch long!
Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org
Spotted lanternfly is currently found in eastern Berks County, PA. It has a large host range and a potentially serious pest of many important crops including tree fruits, grapes, forest trees, etc. For detailed information visit these links:

**Penn State Extension web page:** [http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly](http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly)

**Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Spotted Lanternfly Program:** [http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_75292_10297_0_43/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?name=Spotted-Lanternfly&navid=12&parentnavid=0&palid=150&]

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Quick reminder: Emerald ash borer starts flying when black locust is blooming.

**Photo credit:**
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
Hypoxylon cankers on oak

Close up of Hypoxylon cankers on oak

Luke Gustafson, Charles County Extension sent these photos in of dying oaks on a client’s property. Nice pictures!

Red thread on turf will cause a reddish fungal growth that can be seen on the leaf blades. Often an application of fertilizer will lessen disease severity. Follow University of Maryland fertilizer recommendations.
May apple rust, *Puccinia podophylli* (*Allodus podophylli*)

The lower leaf surfaces (see photo) have orange colored spores and pustules. The disease may even cause some leaf drop. Still, the plant seems to tolerate the disease without permanent injury.

**Lawn Fertilizer Reminder!** The new Maryland Fertilizer Law is in effect. Remember that combination products contain fertilizer (weed and feed, crabgrass preventer, etc.) and this counts as a fertilizer application. Make sure that you are putting down the correct amount of fertilizer for your lawn size.

**Maryland’s Fertilizer Law:** [http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx)

**That beautiful green spring grass is growing quickly!** Sharpen your mower blades and mow at the correct height: 3 inches or higher for cool season grasses such as tall fescue, blue grass, rye, fine fescue, and 1 ½ inches for warm season grasses such as Bermuda and zoysia.

**Check out the new “Grass Roots”** exhibit now open at the United States National Arboretum. For more information visit their Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/NTFGrassRootsInitiative](http://www.facebook.com/NTFGrassRootsInitiative)

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

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