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. Tuesdays will be our deadline for contributions. A paragraph or so with a photo would be great and we will give you credit for any items that are published. Eventually we will have a more formal masthead and post this on the HGIC web site. Thanks.

Current Observations in the Landscape:

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

Boxwood psyllid is just getting started on the new growth on boxwoods. The boxwood psyllid, *Psylla buxi*, causes a characteristic cupping of the leaves on the terminal and lateral buds of boxwood. This insect can overwinter as an egg, or as a first instar nymph under the bud scales. As the buds develop in the spring, the eggs hatch and nymphs emerge to infest the leaves. The feeding causes the leaves to curl and form a cup which encloses the greenish colored nymphs. The nymphs produce a white, waxy secretion which may cover part of the body or small waxy pellets beside the nymphs. The greenish adults emerge late May into June, mate and lay eggs under the bud scales. Only one generation occurs each year. This pest causes aesthetic damage to American boxwood and English boxwood.

Management: Boxwood psyllid nymphs may be controlled with horticultural oil, or insecticidal soap sprays in April and May. Adults may be controlled by a registered residual insecticide in late May into June. Sprays are only necessary if infestations are heavy.

Carpenter bees are out flying around. Males have a white spot on their forehead. They are completely harmless and do not sting. They are just defending their territory. They look like bumble bees, but the top of the abdomen is bare and shiny. Bumble bees have a hairy abdomen. Carpenter bees bore into wood particularly porch, garage and shed ceilings and trim, railings, decks, etc. The resulting holes are almost a perfect circle about a 1/2 inch across. Inside the tunnels will branch repeatedly. Carpenter bees do not eat the wood they tunnel in. They feed on pollen and nectar. The female carpenter bee has a dark face and can sting, but seldom does.
**Eastern tent caterpillars** should be just getting started. Watch for small webs forming in crabapples, and cherry trees. Eastern tent caterpillar is a common pest of wild cherry trees in the spring. Eggs generally hatch around the first week of April. Young caterpillars are black. They spin silk tents in branches. The caterpillars enlarge the tents as they grow. Mature caterpillars have a white stripe down the back. Most feeding damage is done in May.

**Management:** Prune out egg masses during the fall, winter or early spring, and destroy them. Mechanically destroy the webs and caterpillars in the evening during April. If an insecticide application is needed, use B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) when the caterpillars are small and be sure to penetrate the tents with the spray. If possible, remove wild cherry hosts on your property.

“**The Cicadas aren’t coming, the cicadas aren’t coming... at least to most of Central Maryland**”

Steve Allgeier, Faculty Extension Assistant, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Home Horticulture, Master Gardener Coordinator, Carroll County Office

In the past week, I have received several calls asking about the 17 year cicadas that are emerging this year and their impact on plants and people in Carroll County. After several confused conversation, I discovered that there are multiple news reports covering the “2013 summer emergence of cicadas”. As evidence by the map below and our own collective memory, the cicadas aren’t coming, at least to the central Maryland area. The last big emergence was in 2004 and is not due back till 2021, this is brood “X” cicadas. The brood “II” cicadas are emerging in the Virginia’s and central Pennsylvania this year. In Maryland there seems to be limited populations of Brood II and these are primarily found in the Anne
Arundel and Calvert County areas. In either case most of Carroll County does not seem to experience any of these major broods, probably because our county and been heavily deforested to accommodate agriculture from the 1880’s – 1970’s.

The above map is from http://www.cicadas.info/

Of course we will continue to experience the annual “dogday” cicadas. These populations are generally small and insignificant.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs, aka BMSB’s are making their way outdoors from structures, cars, etc. They are interested in mating and laying eggs on many landscape plants. Keep an eye out for them on your vegetables later in the season.

Fern scale is an armored scale and can be found causing damage on liriope. They are sucking insects and heavy infestations may cause leaf yellowing, stunting and dieback. They are found on leaves and stems and can be scraped off. They do not produce honeydew.

Management: To control infestations, remove/trim back plants with severe symptoms. Parasites generally provide control of many scale infestations. To protect parasites, avoid spraying with insecticides during the summer.
Diseases by David Clement, Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center (unless otherwise noted).

Ivy leaf spot on English ivy: The symptoms of fungal infection on English ivy include yellow-brown or black spots or blotches on the leaves. The spots may have a yellow ring or dark border around them however usually not as vivid as with bacterial infections. Initial leaf spots will usually be circular and may also infect stems and roots. The spots may also have small black dots in the center of the necrotic area or may also have concentric rings and have a target appearance. Older dried spots may fall out giving a ragged or shot hole appearance. Under cool wet conditions the initial spots may run together and the entire leaf may become blighted and chlorotic, and covered with dark blotches. Infected leaves will usually shrivel, die and drop off causing severe defoliation.

Management: Avoid overhead irrigation and thin plantings to increase air circulation that will promote faster leaf drying. Thinning can be accomplished by selective pruning of infected leaves or by mechanical removal such as with a lawn mower set at the highest setting. Removal of fallen debris and clean up of old leaves etc. will also help reduce the amount of moisture trapped and will promote faster drying of the planting bed.

Rose rosette is becoming very apparent on wild roses along roadsides. This disease abbreviated (RRD), is caused by a virus, and infects multiflora as well as ornamental roses. The initial symptoms are reddening of the stems and stunted growth. Sometimes there is a proliferation or clustering of stems with excessive soft pliable thorns. The flowers may also abort. Infected roses may die within two years.

The disease is transmitted by an eriophyid mite and by grafting. Mites can be carried by wind currents from infected roses to healthy plants downwind. Multiflora rose serves as the main source for infection in ornamental plantings.

Management Strategies: Early detection is critical to prevent further disease spread within a planting. Infected roses should be uprooted and removed promptly. Remaining roses should be closely monitored for symptoms. If possible multiflora roses should be removed from the vicinity. Ornamental plantings should be
planted upwind of multiflora roses if possible and spaced so that their foliage will not be touch. There are no pesticides for this disease and the control of eriophyid mites is very difficult.

**Cedar Apple Rust galls** are visible now on cedar. Cedar-apple rust, quince rust and hawthorn rust are caused by fungi in the genus *Gymnosporangium*. These rust fungi require two types of plants, a pomaceous plant and a juniper in which to complete their life cycle. *Juniperus virginiana*, the Eastern Red cedar, is the most common rust-susceptible juniper in Maryland. Conspicuous symptoms are produced on both apples and cedars. Fungal spores produced on one type of host plant are carried by wind to infect the other.

Hand pick and destroy cedar galls before the spore-producing tendrils are formed. Cedar galls are most conspicuous and easy to see in wet weather when the orange spore tendrils are extruded. After the orange tendrils are produced, it is too late to prevent spore dispersal.

**Sycamore anthracnose** is starting on sycamore trees. 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.

It is generally not economical to spray large mature shade trees for anthracnose diseases nor is it effective once disease symptoms are noticeable. Young trees or newly planted trees may need fungicide sprays to prevent excessive leaf loss until they become established in the landscape.
Lawn Weeds:

Lawn weeds such as dandelions, henbit, chickweed, veronica, rough-stalked bluegrass, clover, annual bluegrass, etc. are growing in lawns now. Rough bluegrass (Poa trivialis) is a shiny light green, off-color grass with a long ligule. If you had a crabgrass problem last year, get your pre-emergent down now!

Poa trivialis or rough bluegrass is very quickly becoming an aggressive hard to control weed in Maryland lawns. Many homeowners first notice it as large clumps of lighter green turf in their lawn during the spring. It will grow more rapidly than the surrounding turf and will set seed heads quickly much like annual bluegrass. As the temperatures increase and rains become less frequent these areas will appear to die out leaving thin bare areas. However, the P. trivialis is only dormant and will come back either in the fall or next spring. Currently there are not selective herbicides that remove this grassy weed from the lawn. Mechanical or non-selective herbicide removal followed by overseeding is the only way to manage this problem.
Weather conditions for planting vegetables

Lettuce and other cool-season salad greens, beet, turnip, kale, carrot, and radish can continue to be planted. If direct seeding your crops be sure to thin seedlings to recommended spacing.

Green bean can be planted when soil temperature >50 degrees F. Corn and bean seed is large and subject to soil-borne diseases and insect pests if seeds don’t germinate quickly.

Avoid the temptation to plant tomato and pepper before the last expected frost in your area. Day temperatures <60 degrees F. retard growth and night temperatures <34 degrees F. can “burn” leaves. Cold-injured flower buds often produce “catfacing” of fruits.

Catfacing of tomato    Cold injury produced white blotching

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!