In This Issue...
- Fall color on white pine
- Acorn set
- IPM report annual survey
- Euonymus scale
- University of Delaware diagnostic labs
- Fall Turf Field Day
- Asiatic oak weevil
- Fall oil applications
- Grubs
- A fall bloom

Beneficial of the Week
Plant of the Week
Degree Days
Conferences

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Disease Information: Karen Rane (Plant Pathologist) and David Clement (Extension Specialist)
Weed of the Week: Chuck Schuster (Extension Educator, Montgomery County)
Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)
Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey (Regional Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)
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Fall Color on White Pine – Strong in 2012
As the cool weather has moved in, the white pines are showing strong yellowing of 2 and 3 year old needles which is typical fall color. Some of your customers may mistake this yellowing for the death of the tree. As long as the tip growth is still green, then it is just fall color.

Acorn Set – Strong in 2012
We have had several calls and emails about acorns dropping everywhere and pelting people’s house roofs. The white oaks and red oaks set an especially heavy amount of acorns this year. Does this mean a severe winter? We will see.
We NEED YOUR INPUT in 2012 (From Stanton)
Whenever I give a lecture somewhere people from the industry come up and tell me the Weekly IPM Alert is the best report they receive. This positive response is great, but we need to document the worthwhileness of this electronic publication to keep it going into 2013.

We will be conducting an electronic survey soon. To continue improving this report and make sure we put effort behind it we need your input to justify our efforts to our University administrators. If this report is truly helpful – help us out by filling out the survey. We will tell you how to access the survey this fall as we wind up the reporting season.

Armored Scale on Pachysandra
George Mozal brought in a sample of pachysandra to CMREC on Tuesday that was infested with an armored scale. What caught his attention was the large number of white covers of the males that move onto the foliage. The scale is euonymus scale which attacks more than just pachysandra and includes hosts of wintercreeper (Euonymus fortunei), European euonymus (Euonymus europaeus), pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis), and bittersweet (Celastrus scandens).

The scale I examined were mainly 2nd and 3rd instar scales with several males in the prepupal stage. Euonymus scale spends the winter as a mated adult female that then lays eggs in the spring. These eggs hatch into tiny immature scales called crawlers that, for a brief period, move along stems and leaves until they become immobile, grow a protective covering, and begin to feed. The first crawlers hatch and are active from late May to early June. Another generation of crawlers is active again from late July to August and we can get a third generation if the fall is long enough.

**Damage:** Small yellow or white spots appear on upper and lower leaf surfaces. The entire leaf may turn yellow. In severe cases, leaves drop and the plant dies.

**Control:** Horticultural oil can be applied now to suffocate the sessil scale. In spring when their first generation occurs, Talus or Distance can be applied.

FYI - University of Delaware Sample Submission Information and Nematology Assay Service
The University of Delaware has a new web site with sampling guides for nematode samples as well as plant samples (http://extension.udel.edu/ag/plant-diseases/ud-plant-diagnostic-clinic/). The University of Delaware will do nematode analysis for soil samples as well as other soil testing such as pH and nutrient levels. Please see their new web page for the Nematode Assay Service: http://extension.udel.edu/ag/plant-diseases/nematology/

Fall Turf Field Day - November 7, 2012 (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
**Sponsored by the Maryland Turfgrass Council and University of Maryland Extension**

**Location:** Maryland Turf Farm, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

The speakers are Pete Dernoeden who will address weed issues, Tom Turner who will address the new Maryland Fertilizer Law and turfgrass cultivars, Mark Carroll who will address compost amendments, Kevin Mathias who address grub issues and Dave Clement and Mary Kay Malinoski who will address mowing height and give out mowing guides.
Asiatic Oak Weevil
A sample of asiatic oak weevils was submitted to the Home and Garden Information Center this week. At this time of year, these weevils are attracted to lights and sometimes wander into houses in large numbers and become a nuisance. Hosts include red, scarlet, white and pin oaks.

Oil Applications in Fall
We received an inquiry about using horticultural oil on evergreens in the fall. We have not seen damage on deciduous plant material from fall applications but there has been anecdotal information reporting that the oil removes wax layers on broadleaf evergreen and increases winter damage. I put this out to fellow entomologist on a national basis to see if anyone has published something in a refereed journal.

Dan Gilrein, Cornell University Extension, responded with the following information:
Some years ago we did fall applications to in-ground, well-established nursery stock using 3% Ultra-Fine Oil. That was in mid-October during perfect (sunny, dry) weather. This was a replicated trial. We applied to portions of the plants, usually the lower half. I wrote up the report but never published it. The plants were ‘in-ground, well-established nursery stock’ to ‘a variety of well-established field-grown conifers in a nursery. They tested treatments to conifers.

The following late Feb - March we noticed that many of the plants had severe browning to areas where oil was applied. Areas on the same plant where oil was not used were normal.

I have since talked with some arborists here who use oil in the fall. One doesn’t any more - he burned up a valuable weeping Atlas cedar. Others have had some problems too. I recall speaking at a meeting to some arborists from Maryland - they were comfortable with fall oil application but not after mid-Nov.

Here it is mostly done to extend the work season and get ahead of (or instead of) spring application. But I advise against it based more upon my limited experience and the rather dramatic negative impact in a few cases. The spring window is often too brief also, or some years almost non-existent for some plants.

I understand that fall oil application can have several kinds of impacts. By some mechanism it can reduce the accumulation of solids (mostly starches) in cells and that apparently affects their ability to tolerate low temperatures (‘winter hardiness’). It also degrades the leaf cuticle, which may not have time to regenerate before persistent cold and dry conditions set in that increase water loss (roots also become less active, water unable to move up stems).

The problem is that the effects are not consistent from year to year, or from plant to plant, so it is difficult to provide prescriptive advice given the variability in responses.

If they are comfortable and experienced with fall oil application then they have more to go on than I do - and they probably have good reasons for doing so. But at least here on Long Is. given my knowledge (from the one trial) and the field reports from arborists I am sticking with a spring (or occasionally summer) recommendation for oil application to be on the safe side.
Ground beetles are busy running around the ground

This is a beautiful time of year to spend outdoors and in doing this you can’t help but notice the plants and insects. The most common beneficial insects I have been seeing are ground beetles (family Carabidae). Ground beetles are common and abundant in our landscapes and nurseries in addition to many other managed and natural environments. Ground beetles get their name because most species forage and live at the ground level. They are diverse in their appearance and in the food items on which they feed. There are over 40,000 known species world wide of ground beetles. Ground beetle species may be quite small at less than 1/8” in size, and others large at over 1” in size. Most are shiny black or metallic in color and have ridges or lines on their front wings. Their feeding habits are of interest from a pest management perspective. Some species of ground beetles are carnivorous feeding mainly on prey (insects and mites), and generalists feeding on a diverse range of prey species. Other species of ground beetles are omnivores which will feed on both prey and plant material (ex. weed seeds). Some species even partake in pollinivory – feeding on pollen – for nutritional resources. Many omnivorous ground beetles are opportunistic and will feed on whatever food item is most abundant, but if a choice is available they may have a preference. Carnivorous and omnivorous species of ground beetles are predators of caterpillars, grubs, other species of beetles, fly maggots and pupae, aphids, weevils, earthworms, slugs, snails and other soft-bodied creatures hanging around the soil. There are also many species of ground beetles that are considered to be granivores and they mainly feed on seed, often weed seeds. They can be good biological control agents of weeds.

Because ground beetles are good biological control agents of potential pest insects and weeds, and they have diverse diet preferences, a number of studies have examined methods to enhance ground beetle populations by making managed environments more favorable for ground beetles – an approach referred to as conservation biological control. Studies have shown that installing “beetle banks” (rows of bunch type grasses) in agricultural fields enhances ground beetle populations by providing refuge and overwintering habitat. Production nurseries often install grass allies between plant rows which should favor ground beetles. Container plant producers can cover weed cloth with hard wood mulch and increase ground beetle activity. It would be hard to go wrong trying to encourage a diverse and abundant population of ground beetles with their potential for providing pest insect and weed suppression.
Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz
*Cunninghamia lanceolata*, China fir, grows 30-75 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet wide and is an unusual evergreen with a gangly appearance when young and a pyramidal silhouette as it matures. The thick bright green to blue green leaves are 1-3 inches long, sharply pointed at the ends and arranged on the branch in a spiral fashion. The leaves persist on the tree for 5 or more years before falling off, and some will remain on the tree even after they have turned brown, giving the older tree an unkempt appearance. The trunk is tall, straight and covered with peeling brown strips of bark that reveal an inner reddish bark as a contrast. China fir is a more southern plant and needs to be protected from the harsh winter winds or the leaves will discolor and turn bronze. It prefers moist, acidic soils that are well drained and will grow well in USDA zones 7-9. It grows in full sun to partial shade as long as the soil maintains its moisture; it thrives best when shaded by large trees. There are no serious insect or disease pest of this tree.

Degree Days (As of October 11)*

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<td>Reagan National</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*As of May 11, degree day calculations are from weather.com growing degree day calculations instead of NOAA min and max temperatures. To check degree day (DD) accumulations in your local area go to: http://www.weather.com/outdoors/agriculture/growing-degree-days/USMD0100

Advanced Nutrient Applicator Training for In-Ground Nursery Growers

Getting to Know Your Soils

*Multiple Dates, Multiple Locations, 1:00 to 4:00 PM*

**Locations:**

- **November 13, 2012** – Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD
- **November 27, 2012** - University of MD Extension Baltimore County Office, Cockeysville, MD
- **December 4, 2012** - University of MD Extension Montgomery County Office, Derwood, MD

**Contact:** Debby Dant, 410-827-8056 X115, ddant@umd.edu

For more details: http://ipmnet.umd.edu/conferences/docs/Advanced_Nutrient_Applicator_Training-Soils_2012.pdf

Upcoming Programs

**2012 Delaware Ornamental and Turf Workshop**

- **November 14, 2012**
- Hockessin, Delaware 19707
- Contact: 888-448-1203

**2012 Pest Management Conference**

- **December 13, 2012**
- Location: Carroll Community College, Westminster

(hoping to finalize one more speaker before posting brochure)

**Southern Maryland Urban Pest Conference**

- **November 28, 2012**
- Location: Baden Fire Hall, Baden, MD
- Contact: Brian Clark, 301-868-8780
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