Botrytis Problems

Greenhouses are becoming crowded since, until recently, the weekend weather has been terrible for sales. Botrytis blight can become an issue when plants are crowded. Botrytis spores need a film of water for 8-12 hours and relative humidity of 93% or greater in order to germinate and cause infection, so cultural practices used to control this disease are aimed at these environmental conditions. Irrigation early in the day to allow leaves to dry off quickly and heating and venting at sunset to reduce overnight humidity will help manage Botrytis, even in a crowded greenhouse. Avoid rough handling when moving or loading plants – any bruising of flowers or foliage will encourage Botrytis infection in the damaged tissue. Sanitation is very important – fallen leaves and flowers are good sources of Botrytis spores for the rest of the crop, so keep benches and floors as clean as possible. Fungicides for Botrytis management applied to plants in flower can damage the delicate flower tissue. If you can’t avoid using a fungicide for Botrytis when the crop is in flower, follow all label instructions and test the product on a small number of plants first to check for flower damage. For more detailed information on Botrytis management in the greenhouse, check out Botrytis Blight of Greenhouse Crops, a bulletin from the University of Massachusetts.
Twospotted Spider Mites
Salvia ‘Midnight Blue’ has very hairy foliage underneath and mite problems will build up rapidly so monitor closely for twospotted spider mite. The sample we received this week had adults, nymphs and many eggs on the undersides of the leaves. Look for stippling on foliage. If the infestation is high, webbing will also be produced.
Control option include: Horticultural oil, Avid and Sanmite.

European Pepper Moth
Last fall we wrote articles on the European pepper moth showing up in Maryland greenhouses. This caterpillar feeds on foliage close to the soil surface. The caterpillar will feed at the base of the stems and girdle stems. The larvae will also bore into the base of plants causing them to collapse. Be on the lookout for collapsing plants. If you find the plant has been girdled and there is webbing at the base of the plant give me a call at 410-868-9400 or email me at sgilll@umd.edu. You can control this caterpillar, but with closely packed greenhouses, it will be difficult to get applications onto plant material where the caterpillars are feeding. If you want to work with us and place out baited pheromone traps give me a call.

We asked several greenhouse operations to place out baited pheromone traps. So far this season we have detected light activity of the European pepper moth in 3 greenhouses in various part of the state. You can view the article on the European pepper moth and its control options at:
Neonicotinoids
The issue of using neonicotinoids has been highlighted in the news recently and the University of Maryland Extension has been receiving a lot of questions about them. Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury have written an article to start to address this issue. We have summarized the information that is currently known about this situation. The article, Protecting Plants and Pollinators, is posted on our website at: http://extension.umd.edu/ipm/landscape-management/landscape-and-nursery-publications. You are welcome to use this information so your garden center personnel can answer questions from the public.

Green Walls
Greenstreet Growers hosted a meeting for landscape designers, landscape architects and landscape managers to display and discuss the use of green wall planting systems. Used indoors, the system filters the air supposedly removing pollutants and odors. It certainly looks attractive and with these vertical growing systems, it is a chance for the greenhouse businesses to sell more plants. The removable pots can be used to switch out plantings so you could have seasonable displays. They are looking at living walls for both indoor use and for outdoor displays during the growing season. If individual plants develop disease, insect or mite problems, they can be easily unclipped and removed and replaced with other plants.

June 19, 2014 – A Chance for the Horticulture Industry to Learn and Have Fun
Tidal Creek Growers in Davidsonville will be opening their doors for The Maryland Greenhouse Growers’ Association and the University of Maryland Extension. This event will be both educational and good general fun. There will be competitive games organized by Ginny Rosenkranz, entertaining live music, and great food. Bring your family along to enjoy the late afternoon to evening event.

Tidal Creek Growers is a plant production greenhouse operation that is known for its production of high quality greenhouse plants. The site for the field day will feature over 5 acres of greenhouse growing area. The owner is Jake Van Wingerden and the head grower is Mike Leubecker who will lead the tours of the facilities.

Here is what professional horticulturists will see during the tour of the facility:
How to produce high quality poinsettias, pansies, mums, and hydrangeas.
How to get the most out of a flood irrigation and boom irrigation system.
Use of a shaping and trimming mechanical device for herb trees and other specialty crops.

The University of Maryland Extension will have educational displays on water and nutrient management with Andrew Ristvey; Insect and Disease diagnosis and control options with Karen Rane, David Clement and Stanton Gill; How to calibrate fertilizer injectors with Chuck Schuster.
The featured topic will be: What do Garden Centers Want from Greenhouse Growers?

**Featured Speaker:** Carrie Engel, Valley View Garden Center and Nursery, is one of the top speakers from the garden center industry in Maryland. Carrie Engel works for one of the most successful garden center operations in the Baltimore area – Valley View Garden Center and Nursery. Carrie is the greenhouse manager and buyer for annuals, vegetable plants, tropical plant material and holiday plants for Valley View Farms. She has managed the Plant department since 1985. Carrie appears on WBAL TV two times a week talking about gardening and answering viewers questions about plants.

Registration details will be coming soon.

April 24 – Visit a Greenhouse Using Wood Sources to Heat a Greenhouse.

Twin Springs Greenhouse in Gettysburg will be holding an open house to greenhouse growers to look at a wood heated system used to heat greenhouses. Since LP cost were out the roof in 2014 it might be worth looking at this alternative fuel source. They will hold the open house on April 24 at 10:00 a.m. If you want to attend give us a call and we can see if we can get a group together from Maryland to go up and look at this system.

If you are interested, please let us know no later than April 17th

**Upcoming Programs**

Go to http://www.extension.umd.edu/ipm/conferences

**MGGA Field Day**
June 19, 2014 (afternoon through early evening)
Location: Tidal Creek Growers, Davidsonville, MD

**Greenhouse Biocontrol Conference**
August 6, 2014
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD

**Stormwater Management Program**
August 20 and 21, 2014

**TWO Locations:**
August 20 - Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD
August 21 - Robinson Nature Center, Columbia, MD
Details will be posted when available

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