Greenhouse TPM/IPM Report
Central Maryland Research and Education Center
Ellicott City, Maryland

June 30, 2015

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Tarnished Plant Bugs
Tarnished plant bugs are active now. They feed on the developing leaves, fruits, and flowers of woody and herbaceous plants. If populations are high enough, tarnished plant bugs can damage plants. With their piercing sucking mouthparts, they cause stippling and necrotic spots on foliage and deformed foliage, flowers, and fruit. Tarnished plant bug has a wide host range. Herbaceous plant hosts include helichrysum, rudbeckia, asters, zinnia, chrysanthemum, snapdragon, sunflower, cleome, and gomphrena. This bug also infests tree fruits and flowers.

Control: A newer product we have tested on several sucking insects is Xxpire which should provide good control of tarnished plant bug. Most systemic insecticides such as Acephate (Orthene) or neonicotinoids (imidacloprid or dinotefuran) should control the bug

Japanese Beetles
By: Stanton Gill, UME

The population of Japanese beetle adults is at the highest level I have seen since 2005. The adults emerged in mid-June and will be active for about 7-8 weeks this summer. Since we had rain last summer during their larval development period, numbers will be up this season. They will focus on your cut flower zinnias, roses and dahlias.

We are conducting trials to evaluate several new products for control of Japanese beetles. One product is a Bt strain that will supposedly control the adult stage. This is very exciting if it works. The Phyllom
Impatiens Downy Mildew Update  
By: Karen Rane, UME

I have received two reports of impatiens downy mildew in the landscape, one from Maryland and one from Delaware. In the Delaware case, the infected garden impatiens plants had not been treated with any fungicides to protect against the disease. I have not seen the disease on my own garden impatiens yet, but these were treated with protectant fungicides by the producer before I purchased them. If you are growing garden impatiens (Impatiens walleriana) or garden balsam (Impatiens balsamina), watch for the subtle symptoms of initial downy mildew infection – slight chlorosis and curling of infected leaves (Figure 1), with white growth of the downy mildew pathogen on the undersides of the leaves (Figure 2). If any of you were brave enough to plant garden impatiens in the landscape this year, I’m interested in knowing if you see this disease. If you suspect you have impatiens downy mildew on your plants, please drop me a line at rane@umd.edu or call me at 301-405-1611.

Thrips  
By: Stanton Gill, UME

So far, thrips population have been suppressed by all of the rain outdoors which has reduced the influx of thrips moving into greenhouses. This is the lowest level of thrips activity we have seen in several years. Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware Extension, is working with me this summer in evaluating several new low risk pesticides for thrips control and we should have results by this fall.
Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB)
A few early instar nymphs of brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) were found last week here at the research center in Ellicott City. The overwintering population in our building over the past three years has been very low. BMSB causes distortion and discoloration on foliage and fruits. *Hibiscus moscheutos* growing here has been heavily damaged by BMSB in the past. Praying mantids, wheel bugs, birds, and spiders are a few of the common predators of these stink bugs. When identifying immature stages of BMSB, be sure to look closely for the characteristic white banding (sometimes hard to see) on antennae and legs.

New and Alternative Crops for Greenhouse and Nursery Growers
August 5 2015 (8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.)
Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

Native plants: How to grow in the greenhouse from seed and cuttings. Dr. Sara Tangren, University of Maryland Extension, HGIC

Producing cut flowers and vegetables using hydroponics from a working greenhouse operation. Matthew Bauer, Flowers by Bauer, Harford County, MD


Hops as an alternative crops. Tom Barse, Stillpoint Farm

Ginseng: Is it green gold? Dr. Marla McIntosh, University of Maryland

Hydroponic fertility. Cari Peters, Peters Lab, PA

Growing native annuals and perennials for marketing as pollinator plants and to benefit beneficial insects and mites. Dr. Sara Tangren, and Stanton Gill, University of Maryland Extension

Tour of Brookside Production Facility. Joe Kraut, Head Grower, Brookside Gardens

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