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Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:
Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist, IPM for Nursery, Greenhouse and Managed Landscapes, sgill@umd.edu. 301-596-9413 (office) or 410-868-9400 (cell)

Regular Contributors:
Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialists) and Nancy Harding, Faculty Research Assistant
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 (Extension Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)
Design, Layout and Editing: Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)

Spiders Are Abundant in August
By: Stanton Gill, UME

In August, we see a lot of activity from spiders that spin silken webs on plant branches to capture prey. Some landscape managers are reporting their customers are upset about the spider webs in their landscape. What their customers are finding offensive is that in the morning hours when the dew settles, it highlights how many spider webs they have in their landscape and they find this disconcerting. While walking in their landscapes, the spider webs also catch people in the face. They can try wearing a wide brimmed hat when walking through the landscape so the brim catches any spider webs.

We realize that not everyone is a spider lover, but be sure to tell your customers how spiders are one of the most beneficial arthropods you can find in a healthy landscape. They control many species of plant damaging insects. A vibrant, well balanced landscape is going to have spider activity, and this situation is a good thing.
As we move into mid-August, scout for tuliptree scale which infests tuliptrees and deciduous magnolias. The females are feeding heavily in August and producing copious amounts of honeydew. With the frequent rains this summer, we will likely see a lot of sooty mold growing on the honeydew giving the foliage and stems a black sooty cast. NOAA is predicting between 7-10 hurricanes in late summer to fall with 1-2 storms predicted to be very large.

The females are one of the largest scales seen in the landscape. They are oval, convex, and have a distinct flange around the margin of its protective waxy cover. The waxy cover of a mature female varies from light grayish green to pinkish orange mottled with black. The body fluid of a live female is also pinkish orange. Adult males, which are rarely seen, are small and only have one pair of wings.

I am looking for samples to be sent to me at CMREC in late August and early September so I can check for crawler activity. If you have an infested plants, please contact me at Sgill@um.edu about sending samples or bring them by the office. Dinotefuran applied as a soil drench or basal flair drench is effective. The other option is to wait until crawlers and apply Talus or Distance.

A landscaper brought me a sample of skip laurel from Anne Arundel County that had males covers on the stems and foliage. The males should be emerging very soon and mating will occur in late August. We should see crawlers in early September. If you find samples in the landscape, please contact me at Sgill@umd.edu. I would love to look at samples in late August to early September so we can let everyone know when the crawler period starts.

For right now, your customers may see large masses of bright white male covers since they tend to mass on stems at this time of year. This armored scale has become a regular on laurels. Many commercial landscapes are heavily planted with this plant species giving the scale plenty of food sources.
**Boxwood Leafminer**
Jessica Frakes, Thrive, Inc., is finding leafminer larval activity in boxwood plants on August 17 in Potomac. Look for yellow areas on the top of leaves and raised areas on the undersides to indicate the presence of leafminer larvae. Cut into the leaves to find the midge larvae.

**Saddleback Caterpillar**
Jacob Fisher, Forestry Specialist with FirstEnergy Service Company, found a saddleback caterpillar on some autumn olive on the right-of-way near Adamstown when it “stung” him while he was looking at the brush. Look closely for this one since it has stinging hairs and can be quite painful if you make contact with it. Saddleback caterpillars have a wide host plant range. Control is not necessary – just avoid touching the caterpillar – especially the spines as best you can.

**Orangestriped Oakworms**
Continue to look for orangestriped oakworms feeding on trees and crossing paths and parking lots. Mike Leibfried, Bartlet Tree Experts, found orangestriped oakworm on willow oak in Spencerville on August 17. Since the damage is done late in the season, control measures are usually not necessary.
Red-humped Caterpillars
We have another report of red-humped caterpillars this week. Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found them on *Nyssa sylvatica* in Frederick County on August 16. Prepupal larvae overwinter in cocoons in the ground.

Bagworms
Bagworms on conifers are often reported each year. Bagworms also feed on deciduous plants and even perennials, but damage tends to be less of a problem. This week, David Kinderdine, Velvet Touch Rose Care, found a bagworm on a Knockout rose. A few weeks ago, there was a larva feeding on the flower of narrowleaf mountain mint here at the research center. As bagworms mature now and stop feeding, insecticides are not effective. Physical removal of the bags is the control option at this time.

Butternut Woollyworm
Butternut woollyworm is a sawfly larva that feeds on black walnut, butternut and hickory. Jaime Tsambikos, MDA, photographed two butternut woollyworm sawfly larvae, *Eriocampa juglandis*, on the undersides of a walnut leaf on August 16 at a site in Sykesville. It has long, waxy filaments on its body to help protect it from predators. It is not considered a problem insect, but at times it can show up in large numbers in specific locations.
Beneficial of the Week
By: Paula Shrewsbury

Lots of white grubs mean lots of wasps – This is good!

Over the past week or so I have noticed an abundant number of wasps flying a foot or so over turf areas. I often get questions from first time observers of this phenomena such as “what are they?”, “what are they doing?” and “will they sting me?”. There are many species of wasps in nature, many of which provide beneficial services such as biological control and pollination. These particular wasps are referred to as Scoliid (family Scoliidae) or digger wasps because they locate white grubs in the soil and “dig” down to parasitize them, or blue-winged wasps because when there black wings reflect sunlight they appear blue-black in color. Scoliid wasps are not aggressive and it is highly unlikely that one will sting you unless you step on one or pick one up. Scoliid wasps are considered beneficial because they help to suppress populations of scarab beetle larvae - a.k.a. white grubs. There are several species of scoliid wasps. *Scolia dubia* is the common species active at this time in MD. They are ~ ¾” in length, have blue-black wings (2 pairs like most Hymenoptera) and black bodies except the end of the abdomen is reddish brown and hairy. There are two distinct yellow spots on either side of their reddish brown abdomen. *Scolia dubia* mainly attack grubs of green June beetle and Japanese beetle. Scarab beetles lay eggs in the soil of turf, garden beds, and nursery stock. Scarab eggs hatch and the white grubs are active and feed in the root zone into October. Scoliid wasp adults are most abundant and noticeable during August into the fall. Adult scoliid wasps feed on the nectar of a diversity of flowers.

Look for *Scolia* wasps on flowers now through fall. *Solidago* spp. and *Monarda punctata* (spotted horsemint) shown above are two of their favorite nectar sources
Photos: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD
Two of their favorite nectar sources are goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) and spotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*). We are now seeing an abundance of wasps as they are actively flying several inches to a foot above turf infested with grubs where they are either looking for mates or for grubs to serve as food for the wasp larvae. Scoliid wasps will fly in a figure eight pattern, which is a courtship dance used to communicate with and attract mates. Once mated the female wasp flies over the turf to locate a grub in the soil. Once locating a grub the female wasp “digs” its way down to the white grub. She then stabs the grub with a paralyzing sting. Although the grub can barely move, it lives for some time. The female wasp will often dig a little deeper and construct a “cell” around the grub and then lays an egg on the upper side of the grub. The egg hatches, and the paralyzed grub provides “fresh” food for the wasp larvae. The wasp larva pupates and passes the winter in the body of the grub. Wasps emerge as adults the next August. Sounds like a pretty nasty way to go for the grub – but it is all part of the circle of life. *Scolia dubia* has 1 generation a year and the adult wasps live for two to three months. An individual female is reported to lay 1-2 eggs a day during most of her adult life. That a lot of biological control and leaves a lot fewer white grubs feeding on your turf!

The presence of Scoliid wasps indicates that green June beetle or Japanese beetle white grubs are present in the turf or garden beds and that you should monitor for grub abundance and damage. If no damage is detectable, let these beautiful wasps do their thing. Although Scoliid wasps may appear a bit intimidating when first seen over the turf, they are beneficial and can make a significant contribution towards suppressing white grub populations, and ultimately damage to turf.

To see a video of a *Scolia dubia* wasp foraging on the nectar of spotted horse mint go to: https://youtu.be/lFHQiOtpcMM

**Weed of the Week**

By: Chuck Schuster

After checking my normal locations to find weeds, listening and reading what the turf and landscape industry is talking about, and of course, reviewing Facebook, I chose spotted spurge, *Euphorbia maculata*, as the weed of the week (or plant whose economic value has yet to be determined). This weed is very similar to prostate spurge. The summer annual grows throughout the eastern United States in lawns, landscapes, and nurseries and seems to be thriving with the hot damp weather that the area has been experiencing.

Spotted spurge is a prostrate summer annual which forms dense mats growing to fifteen inches in diameter. It is easy to identify as it secretes a milky sap when the stems are broken. This plant germinates when the soil temperatures have reached 55 °F at one inch depth. The root system is most noticeably thin and fibrous, but a thin taproot is also present (photo B). Leaves are from one eighth to one half inch in length (4-14 mm), opposite with a maroon or purple spot on the upper leaf surface (Photo A). The leaf margin is very finely toothed, which may be very difficult to discern. It prefers a compacted soil with full sun. In turf, aeration is a tool for prevention. It will grow well in sidewalk or paver openings (Photo C). It prefers dryer settings. Irrigation can be used but should include deep soaking rather than shallow. Flowers occur in late June through October. Spotted spurge will start producing flowers and seeds in as few as five weeks after germination. A single plant can produce more than 1,000 seeds annually.

Spotted spurge can be mechanically controlled through removal, it pulls up very easily. Staying current with the removal can help prevent seed bank deposits. Spotted spurge does not like competition so a dense thick turf
mowed at the appropriate height can be very helpful with control. High quality mulch covering the soil will prevent the seeds from receiving the needed UV light required for germination. Control of spotted spurge can be obtained through the use of pre emergent materials that include prodiamine (Barricade), isoxaben (Gallery), trifluralin (Treflan) when applied early in the growing season, and with post emergent products that would include Fusilade II and glyphosate products. In turfgrass settings, this plant can be controlled with the use of 2,4D and related mix products. In landscapes, use caution with the use of non-selective products as they can be harmful to desired plant species.

**Plant of the Week**

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

*Buddleia* x Podaras or Flutterby Petite® Tutti Fruitti Pink Butterfly Bush (sometimes known as the nectar bush) is a part of a new Flutterby Petite™ series from Garden Debut that grows only 2-3 feet tall and gives continuous bright pink fuchsia flowers all summer until the frost. Unlike many buddleias, Flutterby Petite™ does not cast seeds everywhere! It does bloom beautifully if planted in full sun as a border plant, a groundcover or even in containers. Once established, Tutti Fruitti Pink Butterfly Bush is very heat and drought tolerant, thriving in well drained average soils. It is cold tolerant from USDA zones 5-9. Cutting of the spent flowers will keep the plant looking cleaner and will also promote the plant to continue to bloom. The fragrant flowers can also be used as cut flowers, but if left on the plant attract hummingbirds, butterflies and many other pollinators. Plant growth is a mounding compact shrub with fragrant foliage that is reported to be both rabbit and deer resistant. Like all buddleias, the plants should be pruned low to the ground each spring to encourage new growth that will provide all those lovely fragrant flowers. There are no serious pests.
**Degree Days (As of August 17)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Degrees</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Location Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)</td>
<td>2853</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD (KBWI)</td>
<td>2773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Park (KCGS)</td>
<td>2716</td>
<td>Dulles Airport (KIAD)</td>
<td>2782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellicott City (E3247)</td>
<td>2693</td>
<td>Fairfax, VA (D4092)</td>
<td>3013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick (KFDK)</td>
<td>2532</td>
<td>Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)</td>
<td>2644</td>
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<td>Gaithers (KGAI)</td>
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<td>Martinsburg, WV (C1672)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rockville (C2057)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>St. Mary’s City (St. Inigoes, MD-KNUI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westminster (KDMW)</td>
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**Important Note:** We are now using the [Online Phenology and Degree-Day Models](#) site.

Use the following information to calculate GDD for your site at the [Online Phenology and Degree-Day Models](#) site:

- **Model Category:** All models
- **Thresholds in:** °F
  - Lower: 50
  - Upper: 95
- **Calculation type:** simple average/growing dds
  - Start: Jan 1

Once you know the GDD and/or plant phenological indicators (PPI, what plants are blooming) in your location, you can go to the [Pest Predictive Calendar](#) to determine what pests you can expect to be active soon in that location.

### 2016 Conferences

- **Montgomery College - Landscape and Technology**
  - LNTP 190 Pesticide Use & Safety (taught by Chuck Schuster)
  - LNTP 215 Pest Management (taught by Stanton Gill).

- **5th Annual Trees Matter Symposium**
  - TreesMatter Symposium
  - October 19, 2016, 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
  - Silver Spring Civic Building
  - [Details are available online](#)

- **Cut Flower Lectures and Tour**
  - September 14, 2016
  - Locations: Carroll County
  - [Brochure](#)
IPMnet Has a New On-line Tool: The Pest Predictive Calendar

This Pest Predictive Calendar is intended to assist landscape managers, growers, IPM professionals and others in predicting the appearance of pest insects and mites in order to make more timely management decisions. By using the Plant Phenology Indicators (PPI) and Growing Degree Days (GDD) on this table you can anticipate when the susceptible life stage(s) (stage you want to target for control measures of pest insects and mites are active.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Stanton Gill
Extension Specialist
sgill@umd.edu
410-868-9400 (cell)

Paula Shrewsbury
Extension Specialist
pshrewsb@umd.edu

Karen Rane
Plant Pathologist
rane@umd.edu

Chuck Schuster
Extension Educator
cfs@umd.edu

David Clement
Plant Pathologist
clement@umd.edu

Andrew Ristvey
Extension Specialist
aristvey@umd.edu

Ginny Rosenkranz
Extension Educator
rosnkrnz@umd.edu

Nancy Harding
Faculty Research Assistant

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