Rain: It is Not Enough
By: Stanton Gill

The rains the weather people predicted for September 18 never materialized. We had a smattering (insignificant) amount of rain on September 19, but it was only just enough to encourage leaf spot diseases, cause cars to skid on the roadways, and not really provide any relief from the 6 week extremely dry period we have been experiencing. The ground is powder dry and making it very difficult for field grown nursery managers to take out rootballs from the ground. Hopefully, rain will show up next week. Meanwhile, we continue to receive reports of scorched leaves and plants with dieback due to the drought conditions.
Cherry Trees Look Terrible in 2016
By: Stanton Gill

We are receiving calls on the poor condition of cherry trees in September. Trees are lacking foliage or very spare foliage is present. For cherry trees in many landscapes this is the fourth year in the row that they have defoliated early. The weather pattern for 2016 has created ideal conditions for some of the same foliage diseases that were rampant on ornamental cherry tree species in previous years. Many of the cherry trees were damaged by several species of leafspot diseases. There is not much you can do at this time of year, but this response will not make your customers happy. The trees will leaf out next year. The incidence of leafspot infection in 2017 will depend on the frequency of rainfall next spring and early summer during high infection times.

Here are some things you can do to reduce the impact:

- Rake up and destroy fallen leaves
- If the crown of the tree is very dense or shaded by other trees, pruning to thin a dense crown or raising branch levels on adjacent trees will improve light and air penetration into the canopy and help reduce new infections.
- Perform a soil test and provide optimum nutrient levels. This will help suppress certain foliage disease and facilitate recovery should infection occur.
- Apply preventative fungicide treatment to trees that were damaged last year. This must be done in spring and early summer to prevent the disease infection. Treatments should begin as new growth develops and be repeated during the spring as growth expands. Certain diseases may require additional treatments in summer if frequent rains continue, to maintain suppression.

Be on the Lookout for Our Pollinator Buddies in September
By: Stanton Gill

We have to very conscious that our “pollinator buddies” are desperate for sugary substances in late September. Every so often we receive reports from people who have had an unfortunate encounter with our pollinator buddies. Getting stung by wasps like yellowjackets happens when wasps and bees go after your drinks and food. If you are dining outdoors during this time of year, be very aware that wasps and bees may be attracted to your food and drink and you need to keep your eye on the food before you chomp down or take a swig. They are still our “pollinator buddies”, but they are hungry for food at this time of year. Wasps are also predators that help keep pest insects under control.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs on Fruit

Alert from Tara Bauger, Penn State University:
During the last four weeks we have observed a very sharp increase in the number of brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) adults collected in various monitoring traps placed around orchards located in southern Pennsylvania. After relatively lower levels of infestation on fruit observed during the last two seasons, this 2016 harvest seems to bring back a serious BMSB challenge.

See the full article for more details.
Redheaded Pine Sawflies
Elaine Menegon, Good’s Tree Care, found redheaded pine sawflies in Hershey, PA, this week. This native sawfly feeds on pines including jack, red, shortleaf, loblolly, Japanese black, mugo. Other hosts include deodar cedar and Norway spruce. The larvae feed gregariously. A group of larvae can defoliate whole sections of a pine very rapidly in late August to early September.
Control: Prune off tip growth on which they are feeding and destroy. Conserve insecticide will also give control.

Impact of Dry Weather on Golf Courses
Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc., sent us this link for a USGA article on the challenges that this summer’s dry weather has created for golf course managers.

Harlequin Bugs
Nymphs and adults of harlequin bugs are active at this time of year. They pierce plant foliage, making the foliage stippled and bleached. At this time of year, harlequin bugs can be a problem on cabbage and kale at greenhouse operations and in home gardens. Harlequin bugs are generalist feeds and are commonly found on snapdragon, obedient plant, cleome, salvia, and cabbage and kale. Weeds like pigweed, mustards, and lambsquarter are also plant hosts.
Control: Harlequin bugs overwinter as adults in plant debris so good sanitation can help reduce populations the following year. Insecticidal soaps or oils targeting the nymphs are good controls and have low impact on the environment. Other options include azadirachtin (e.g. Neem), acephate (e.g. Orthene), and synthetic pyrethroids.
Lace Bugs
Jessica Frakes, Thrive, Inc., is finding lace bugs active on serviceberry this week. Look for yellow stippling on the upper side of foliage and black fecal spots, nymphs and adults on the undersides of leaves.

Control: Activity is finishing up for the season. Next spring, check plants for lace bugs. Horticultural oil or insecticidal soap are options for the nymphs if you can reach the undersides of the foliage. Check after the application for the next generation to determine if another treatment is needed. Acephate as a foliar application is an option, and it lasts for 3 weeks.

Insect Sightings

This bright orange, black, and white insect is an Ailanthus webworm moth. The caterpillars feed on Ailanthus (tree of heaven). Look for them within webbed leaves.

Photo: Gretchen Stark

Praying mantids are mating at this time of year. Look for egg masses this fall.

Photo: Sallee Hearne
**Yellow Nutsedge**
Ross Fornaro, NaturaLawn of America, sent in a photo of yellow nutsedge showing the characteristic tubers, also called nutlets. These tubers are the primary way that nutsedge reproduces and they can remain viable for up to ten years. Chuck Schuster covered nutsedge in the [August 8, 2014 IPM Report](#).

**Beneficial of the Week**
By: Paula Shrewsbury

**Instead of the “birds and the bees” let’s consider the birds and the caterpillars.**

This has been a pretty good year for caterpillars. Many species of caterpillars consume large amounts of foliage from ornamental plants and turfgrass – and they have been busy this season. I continue to see caterpillars consuming foliage or wandering around the ground in search of pupation sites. Fortunately, there are many arthropod predators and parasitoids that attack and feed on caterpillars. These include the Calosoma ground beetle, stink bugs, and many species of wasps that feed caterpillars to their young, in addition to many species of small parasitic wasps. However, as an entomologist I seldom spend too much time talking about the role of birds in biological control of insects such as caterpillars.

Birds are tremendous predators of caterpillars! Ninety six percent of terrestrial birds are reported to rear their young on insects, many of which are caterpillars. Years with high caterpillar populations have been found to result in high nesting success of many birds, so more caterpillars can equal more birds. For example, rose-breasted grosbeaks, scarlet tanagers, many species of warblers, and other “canopy” birds feed on caterpillars that feed on the foliage of trees.

Some caterpillars that are important pests in our landscapes and nurseries plan an important role as food resources for many bird species. For example, gypsy moth caterpillars can be a major pest in many natural and urban forests and landscapes. Many birds do not like to eat large hairy gypsy moth caterpillars. Those that do, however, really seem to “enjoy” them. Birds that eat gypsy moth caterpillars include yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos, blue jays, towhees, and even our beautiful state bird – orioles. Black-capped chickadees are known to feed on the egg masses of gypsy moths. I often “hear” birds do not like tent caterpillars. A study by researchers at the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station documented 60 birds species eat tent caterpillars including cuckoos, orioles, jays, chickadees and nuthatches.

I think there are a few things to consider regarding caterpillars. Most of us and/or our clients do not want large numbers of caterpillars consuming the foliage of our plants. However, more caterpillars mean more birds. When deciding to control caterpillars, consider tolerating some level of defoliation to help sustain bird biodiversity in our managed systems.
Weed of the Week
By: Chuck Schuster

During a recent visit to a farm, I was asked what this very prolific plant might be. Towering well over ten feet in height, his plant had an abundance of flowers releasing pollen. This weed is one of the fall causes of hay fever. Giant ragweed, *Ambrosia trifida*, is a tall, erect summer annual that is being found in some settings at this time. It is a member of the Asteraceae, or sunflower family. Reaching a total height of up to sixteen feet, this plant will display large three lobed leaves, and on occasion five lobed leaves. The lobes originate from the same point (palmate). It prefers fertile well drained soils. Giant ragweed has a taproot and has a hairy stem. It is tall and erect with several branches. The leaves are hairy, lobed, and opposite on a long petiole. Each leaf can be up to eight inches in width and six inches in length. The female flowers are small and green; the male flowers are on the end of the upper stems on a cylindrical spike. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years.

Giant ragweed does not tolerate close and frequent mowing which can be one cultural method for control. Preventing it from going to seed will assist in future years for control also. Use of most three way products has been effective in turf, and use of non-selective translocated products will provide partial control in landscape and nursery settings. Early management is the key.

Plant of the Week
By: Ginny Rosenkranz

*Hydrangea paniculata* Quick Fire® is a new Proven Winners cultivar that blooms almost a month earlier than other panicle hydrangeas, usually starting in June and continuing until September. The large conical cluster of flowers starts out pure white, then slowly turn pink and finally matures to a deeper rose color. The plant will flower on new growth, so really harsh winters will never slow down the flowering of Quick Fire®. This hydrangea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub that grows 6 – 8 feet tall and wide with deep green foliage and thrives from USDA zones 3-8. It prefers a good rich loamy soil with only medium moisture and full sun for best flowering. It is tolerant of urban pollution and, once established, some drought. As it does bloom on new growth, regular pruning in early spring will create a full, multi stemmed plant with a lot of flowers that form on the tips of each branch. The flowers are so large that they often cause the branches to arch gracefully downward. Thinning the plants to 5-10 primary shoots will create larger flowers which can be left of the plant for all season interest or cut as a fresh or dried...
flower. Diseases include bacterial wilt, bud blight, leaf spot, powdery mildew, and rust. Insects that can infest the plant include aphids, rose chafer, oyster shell scale, twospotted mites, and nematodes.

**Hydrangea paniculata Quick Fire®** is tolerant of urban pollution, and after established, some drought

*Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME*

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**Degree Days (As of September 21)**

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>GDD</th>
<th>City, State (Airport Code)</th>
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<td>Baltimore, MD (KBWI)</td>
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<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: Select your location from the map

- **Model Category:** All models
- **Thresholds in:** °F
  - Lower: 50
  - Upper: 95
- **Calculation type:** simple average/growing dd
  - 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.

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**Perennials that Drink Responsibly**

October 1, 10:00 – 11:30 am

**Location:** Visitor Center Auditorium, US National Arboretum

The climate is changing! We are having drier, hotter summers, wetter springs, and possibly wetter winters. We can no longer afford water guzzling plants; as gardeners we need to set the example for responsible water use in our communities. Join the Perennial Diva, Stephanie Cohen, for a fun and fact-filled lecture on perennials that thrive with less watering. Fee: $15 ($10 FONA) **Registration required.**
Commercial Horticulture Conferences

5th Annual Trees Matter Symposium
October 19, 2016, 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Silver Spring Civic Building
Details are available online

New Location for 2016 December 2016 Conference
Howard Community College in Columbia for December 16, 2016. Look for the schedule in mid-October.

Advanced Landscape Plant IPM PHC Short Course
January 3rd to January 6th
Website: landscapeipmphc.weebly.com
For registration information visit our website or contact:
Kiley Gilbert, University of Maryland, Dept of Entomology
Tel: 301-405-3911, Monday-Friday 8-4:30
Email: kgilber4@umd.edu

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Photos are by Suzanne Klick or Stanton Gill unless stated otherwise.

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