Have you seen this?

Surprise! Cicadas Appear 4 Years Early

Have you seen or heard a cicada recently? They’re off schedule! They weren’t due until 2021! There are multiple theories about why they are emerging and who these cicadas are (what brood do they belong to?). Read up on the science on Mike Raupp, The Bug Guy’s blog.

What should I do?

Cicadas cause no damage to trees and shrubs by their feeding habits. However, the egg laying activity of the female cicadas will cause some damage to young twigs. Simply prune off the broken twigs that remain on the plants.

Help track the cicadas by reporting emergences you have noticed in your area at magicicada.org.

--- Read more on cicadas on the HGIC website

### June Tips

- Pinch out the flower buds of fall blooming asters, mums, goldenrod and other fall bloomers to keep plants bushy and prevent early flowering.
- Maintaining proper mower height of 3 inches is critical for a successful lawn and its survival throughout summer. After a wet period your grass may be excessively tall. In this case, mow your turf higher than normal, then return several days later and mow at the proper height.

--- More June Tips

### What's hot

#### Trending Topics

- **Rose Slugs** – Rose slugs are appearing on rose bushes in Maryland now.
- **Lawn Care in June** – See our tips for maintaining a healthy lawn. **Red thread** is a commonly occuring disease during wet weather.
Master Gardener and Master Naturalist 19th Annual Training Conference

On May 25th, the UMD Extension Master Gardener Program held the 19th Annual Training Conference in Stamp Student Union on UMD campus.

Hundreds of Maryland gardeners gathered for a day of learning, networking, and fun. Larry Weaner provided the keynote on working with plants' natural ecology to create wild, yet beautiful landscapes. Attendees each enjoyed several of 30 different lectures such as Kerry Ann Mendez' Right-Size Flower Garden seminar. A trade show area with local vendors was buzzing with activity.

--- What is the Annual Training Conference? View video on YouTube

The Master Gardener Program is designed to train volunteer horticultural educators for the University of Maryland Extension -- the principal outreach education unit of the University of Maryland. Participants of the Master Gardener Program receive 40-50 hours of Basic Training from University of Maryland professionals. Master Gardener volunteers then share their research-based knowledge and skills with their communities. Training is scheduled throughout the year and is open to anybody.

The Annual Training Conference is open to the public as well! Stay tuned to sign up for next year's event!

--- How to Plant Tomatoes

Jon Traunfeld demonstrates how to plant two sizes of tomato transplants.

--- View on YouTube
--- View entire food gardening YouTube Playlist

Cicada Nymph Emerges
After almost seventeen years underground, it's time to get up and out of the ground. A mad dash to the relative safety of a tree includes crossing a dangerous sidewalk before joining brood mates as they climb and prepare to molt.

I have two beautiful, mature Leyland cypresses in my yard. I noticed that their tips are turning brown in spots. I see the same phenomenon on my neighbor's evergreens that border my yard. Is this a disease? Do the trees need to be treated?

The brown tips on Leyland cypresses at this time of year are a symptom of Seiridium canker, a fungal disease. When these trees are stressed due to drought, poor planting techniques, and/or poor drainage, they can be susceptible to disease and insect issues. If the trees are planted too close together, there is a lot of root competition for moisture and nutrients, and the trees will also suffer from a lack of sunlight and poor air circulation.

There is no treatment for Seiridium canker. The brown tips will drop off naturally. Prune any dead branches during dry weather. The best recommendation is to keep the trees well-watered during dry periods. Keep mulch no thicker than several inches deep and away from the base of the trunk. Avoid over-fertilization. Leyland cypress grow best in full sun with plenty of air circulation and appreciate moisture during dry periods.

Have a plant or pest question? University of Maryland Extension's experts have answers! Send in your questions and photos to Ask an Expert.

Have a suggestion for a topic to cover in the HGIC newsletter? Send in your suggestions.