



**TPM/IPM Weekly Report for Arborists,  
Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension  
Central Maryland Research and Education Center**

**May 25, 2007**

**Coordinator of the electronic weekly IPM report:**

Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist, IPM for Nursery, Greenhouse and Managed Landscapes,  
[Sgill@umd.edu](mailto: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 Specialist)

**Disease Information:** David Clement and Ethel Dutky (Extension Specialists), and Rich Anacker (Maryland Department of Agriculture)

**Weed of the Week:** Chuck Schuster (Extension Educator, Montgomery County)

**Cultural Information:** Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)

**Fertility Management:** Andrew Ristvey (Regional Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)

**Design, layout and editing:** Suzanne Klick and Shannon Wadkins (Technicians, CMREC)

Go to [www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET](http://www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET) to view past issues of this IPM report and to find about upcoming classes and seminars. Please call in if you are finding insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems. Send submissions to [Sklick@umd.edu](mailto:Sklick@umd.edu) or call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413.

**Euonymus Scale**

Crawlers of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation (of 2) of euonymus scale for the last 3 years have shown up when Spirea 'Vanhoutte' is in bloom which was last week in central Maryland. Crawler emergence is usually over a 2 - 3 week period so you can still apply a growth regulator to control this pest.

**Plants to monitor:** Euonymus, boxwood, and pachysandra should be examined for the presence of scale. It is possible to have old dead scale covers on the plants. Therefore, use your hand lens to confirm you have active crawlers on the plants before applying controls.

**Control:** The insect growth regulator Distance can be used against the crawlers of this scale.



**Ash Plant Bug**

Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts, reported ash plant bug adults on ash on May 18 in Uniontown. There are many species of plant bugs that feed on ornamentals. The ash plant bug prefers ash trees. They have sucking mouthparts and feeding results in yellow stippling damage to the foliage.

**Monitor:** Look for tan to green colored plant bugs and stippling damage on ash.

**Control:** Controls are usually not warranted for this bug.

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### Locust leafminers

Adults were seen laying eggs on foliage on May 16. Adults feed on foliage resulting in etching or skeletonization of the foliage. Eggs should hatch in the next week or so and the 1<sup>st</sup> generation larvae will start mining the foliage of black locust resulting in blotched brown leaf mines. The 2<sup>nd</sup> generation adults and larvae are usually active in July and August.

**Monitoring:** Black locust is the common host of this beetle. Look for these small (~1/4") orange and black, somewhat flattened beetles and their damage on black locust.

**Control:** Black locusts often appear "scorched" due to heavy feeding by the locust leafminer. However, black locusts are relatively tolerant of this pest and seem to rebound every year. In most cases black locust are not prominent or specimen trees and therefore should likely not need treating.



### Bagworm

Dave Keane reported first instar bagworms on May 22 in Frederick. They were feeding on a Pin Oak. Yikes – here they go again! For best control and reduced damage monitor and get your controls out in the next few weeks.

**Monitoring:** Bagworm caterpillars have a very broad host range feeding on many deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Newly hatched bagworms are difficult to see. Closely monitor trees with bags from last year and any nearby trees. Monitor for "shothole" type defoliation by the little caterpillars, small caterpillars (~1/4") silking out from the bottom of old bags, and tiny (<1/2") new bags being formed.

**Control:** Plants can be treated with a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) product (a biological insecticide), Confirm (an insect growth regulator), or Conserve (a biorational insecticide). All of these work well on young early instar caterpillars.



### Spiny Witchhazel Gall Aphid

Marty Adams reported adult activity of spiny witchhazel gall aphid on River birch on May 21 in Columbia. Brian Clark, University of Maryland, is also seeing these aphids on paper birch (but not on river birch which is unusual) in College Park. These aphids have a complicated life cycle which includes alternating between witch hazel and birch. It appears feeding by these aphids does not reduce the health of River birch.



For more information go to:

[http://ipm.ncsu.edu/current\\_ipm/06PestNews/06News4/pestnews.pdf](http://ipm.ncsu.edu/current_ipm/06PestNews/06News4/pestnews.pdf)

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**Monitor:** These aphids are common on River birch. Visually search the underside of the foliage for aphids which produce an abundance of white wax-like material. Aphid feeding results in “bumpy” ridges in the leaves.

**Control:** Natural enemies (lady beetles, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps) usually move in and control these aphids so there is no need to treat. Lady bird beetles are feeding on the aphids on the birch here at the research center already. If your populations become high and your plant is in a focal location be sure to use a chemical that will have low impact on the beneficials such as horticultural oil.

### **Imported Willow Leaf Beetle**

Marty Adams brought in a sample of pussy willow with imported willow leaf beetle larvae feeding extensively on the foliage. The beetles were found on May 24 in Clarksville. Feeding by the adults results in shothole type defoliation, and larvae feed in groups and cause skeletonization. These beetles commonly feed on willow and cottonwood species.

**Monitor:** Look for active adults (small shiny black beetles) and larvae (look similar to lady beetle larvae as shown in photo) and feeding damage.

**Control:** Control is usually not warranted. Plants outgrow and mask damage. If damage is not tolerable treat larvae with a *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis* product. Conserve or a systemic (acephate) may be used.



### **Aphids Are Active**

John Stuart reported a booming aphid population on a winged euonymus on May 17 in Prince George’s County and sent us the photo of the aphids on the stem. Winged aphids were present. Aphids, as well as predaceous syrphid fly larvae, are active on sedums here at the research center.

**Control:** As mentioned earlier most aphid populations are controlled by the large complex of natural enemies that attack them. Be a little patient and they (the natural enemies) will come.



### **Lilac Borer**

Brian Clark reported seeing an adult lilac borer laying eggs on an ash tree in La Plata last week. Lilac borers are clear winged borers, about ½” long, and the adults resemble paper wasps. This borer prefers trees and shrubs in the family Oleaceae including lilac, ash, and privet.

**Monitor:** You can use pheromone traps to determine and time adult activity. Examine the trunks and branches of host plants for empty brown pupal cases sticking out of exit holes and for adults on or flying around host trees and shrubs.

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**Control:** The best control is to put a protective insecticide on the bark of host trees and shrubs now since adults are active. They will lay eggs on the bark and the insecticide will kill larvae as they try to bore into wood. In landscapes use Astro (permethrin) and in nurseries use Onyx (bifenthrin).

### **Ambrosia Beetle**

Andrew Ristvey found ambrosia beetle in sweetbay magnolia in the first part of May. He is not seeing anymore damage at this time. The second generation occurs in early summer and usually does not cause much damage. Most damage occurs in spring with the first adult activity and 1<sup>st</sup> generation larval feeding.



### **Phomopsis**

Marty Adams detected phomopsis on juniper on May 13 in Clarksville. Phomopsis damages new growth throughout the spring and late summer. Tips become red brown and then eventually turn gray. Small lesions can girdle the tips.



### **Beneficials Reported**



**Lady bird beetles actively feeding on aphids. Rick LaNore, MRW Lawns, Inc., sent us a photo of lady bird beetles mating. Plenty of aphids are nearby for the young.**

Lacewings were found on cotoneaster in Reisterstown.  
Syrphid flies are feeding on aphids on sedum in the landscape.

### **Beneficial of the Week** (by Paula Shrewsbury)

#### **Aphids and Their Enemies**

As you note from today and recent pest reports aphids are very active in our landscapes and nurseries. For example we are seeing aphids on river birch, winged euonymus, sedum, roses, spirea, and more. The main message I want to send is that in most cases you can let the aphids go (ex. no need for pesticide applications) and with a little patience you will see those aphid populations crash. We have seen repeated evidence, both anecdotal and research-based, of this in landscapes and nurseries. Also note that in recent “Beneficials of the Week” I have stressed the importance of an “assemblage” of natural enemies – usually no single species of natural enemy will

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control a pest insect, but it takes multiple species to be successful. This assortment of natural enemies may vary in the time of year they are actively feeding on the pest, the life stage of the pest they attack (eggs vs. larvae), or it may just take more than one species to be able to significantly reduce a pest population. Aphid systems are very interesting and exciting “ecosystems” to watch. Be sure to take advantage of this – watch and learn. Usually I first spot adult and larvae of lady beetles feeding on the aphids. There are multiple species of lady beetles including *Harmonia axyridis*, the Multi-colored lady beetle (see the April 28, 2006 Pest Report), and the convergent lady beetle. These are beautiful and very voracious predators as adults and larvae. Shortly after the lady beetles start, I see Syrphid (or flower) flies on aphid infested plants (see the May 12, 2006 Pest Report). Syrphid fly larvae are excellent predators of aphids. Once these flies are present I know the aphids are in trouble. With the lady beetles and syrphid flies going I then start to see aphid “mummies” which are aphids that have been parasitized by a wasp (see the June 2, 2006 Pest Report). There are several species of wasps that attack and kill aphids. It is this assemblage of natural enemies that ultimately lead to the disappearance of the aphids. Another thing to think about... you have aphids early in the season; they attract an abundance of natural enemies; when they consume all the aphids what happens to them? Well, if you have other insects in your landscape or nursery they will then go after them and likely prevent them from reaching outbreak densities.



**Adult lady beetle image - An adult lady beetle feasting on Rose aphids. (image by M. Raupp, UMD)**



**Flower fly larva image – Syrphid (flower) fly maggot eating a winged aphid. (image by M. Raupp, UMD)**



**Tan aphid mummy image – Rose aphid mummy with a parasitic wasp in the genera *Aphidius* developing within it. (image by M. Raupp, UMD)**

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## Plant of the Week

Old fashioned Weigela (*Weigela florida*) is a great choice for a summer tapestry hedge where privacy is needed and pruning is not desired. Most varieties grow between 4-9 feet tall and only need pruning after flowering to remove any dead branches. Many of the older varieties are covered with flowers in May through June with bright red, pink or white trumpet shaped flowers. Some varieties have variegated foliage that can brighten the landscape even after the flowers are finished. One of the newest varieties, 'Wine and Roses®' (shown in photo), has burgundy colored foliage and dark hot pink flowers on a plant that grows only 4-6 feet tall. Best of all, weigela doesn't seem to have any insect or disease pests and are fairly easy to grow if planted in full sun and well drained soils.



## Weed of the Week (by Chuck Schuster)

Mugwort: *Artemisia vulgaris*, also known as Chrysanthemum Weed, is a weed found throughout the eastern United States. This perennial, rhizomatous plant can be spread from nursery stock to the landscape. This weed is prolific once introduced into a landscape and may grow to a height of four to five feet. As the stems get longer they become woody, with a reddish brown color. Leaves are three to four inches in length, one to three inches in width, are deeply lobed and alternate. Leaf undersides will produce white or gray hairs and the upper side may have only a few hairs. The flowers are often not seen, will appear in small clusters at the top of the plant and will be on short upright stalks. Seed from this plant is most often not viable.

Mugwort is a difficult to control weed. Pre emergent herbicides are not effective. Good sanitation is important to prevent the introduction of this into the landscape when adding new plant material. In turf, it will tolerate close mowing, and spreads through rhizomes. Post emergent products that are effective will be the glyphosate family, with applications in both May and August being effective.



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**What's in bloom?**

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Plant Stage</b> (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	<b>Location</b>
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Full bloom (May 23)	Silver Run
<i>Chionanthus pygmaeus</i>	First bloom (May 23)	Silver Run
<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Full bloom (May 23)	Silver Run
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	First bloom (May 24)	Ellicott City
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Full bloom (May 23)	Ellicott City
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i> 'Morris Berd'	Full bloom (May 23)	Silver Run
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Buds (May 23)	Ellicott City
<i>Viburnum nudum</i> 'Winterthur'	First bloom (May 23)	Silver Run

**Degree Day Information (as of May 24):**

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	585
Dulles Airport	645
Hagerstown, MD	548
Mechanicsville, MD	659
National Arboretum	678
Reagan National	709
Salisbury	512

**Aerial Rescue & Basic Crane Safety and Rigging**

The Maryland Arborist Association, Inc.

Saturday, June 2, 2007, 8: AM – 3: PM at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Crane Safety & Rigging: Mr. Don Blair, Mr. Frank Fogel, Jr, & Mr. Rob Springer

Aerial Rescue & Pre-Climb Inspection: Mr. Steve Castrogiovanni

For registration information contact: MAA, 888-638-7337



Stanton Gill



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Paula Shrewsbury



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