



Greenhouse TPM/IPM Weekly Report
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Central Maryland Research and Education Center

From: Stanton Gill and Karen Rane, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Ginny Rosenkranz, Extension Educator, Chuck Schuster, Extension Educator, Suzanne Klick and Shannon Wadkins, Technicians, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Amanda Laudwein, John Speaker, and Marie Rojas (Independent IPM Scouts)

November 16, 2007

Pest Management Conference
Montgomery College, Germantown, MD
December 14, 2007

Pesticide recertification credits: MD, DC, WV
This conference also counts for ISA credits

For a registration brochure go to:
www.ipmnet.umd.edu

Getting Free of Fossil Fuels – Good News

Newsweek just published a story in the November 19 issue on the use of solar to generate electricity. David Mills with Ausra is a physicist from Australia who developed a simple, but effective means to use rows of mirrors to follow the path of the sun. The mirrors reflect the sun onto water filled pipes which creates steam that drives a turbine in an electric plant. Besides generating electricity, the process does not generate any greenhouse gases. Pacific Gas and Electric of California signed a 20 year contract for Ausra Company to build a system to generate 177 megawatts of electricity in central valley of California. The proposed plant will be operational in 2010. They are planning to cover a 1 mile area with reflective mirrors in a desert area. Now land in the west that was considered too hot for humans is being looked at for potential sites to set up more of these solar electricity plants. The high price of oil is making alternative methods that get us free of foreign oil more and more attractive.

Go Green with Clean Currents

Gary Skulnik, President of Clean Currents LLC, who spoke at last week's energy program, has provided the following summary of two ways that businesses can switch to clean, renewable energy. Visit www.cleancurrents.com for more information.

On-Site: The most popular forms of on-site clean power are solar, small wind, and biomass generators. Each option has various costs and pros/cons associated with it. Clean Currents can help you determine what option works best for you.

Through the Grid: To switch to clean energy without installing any equipment, you can work with Clean Currents to find an alternative supplier to meet your needs. You simply fill out an authorization form and send it to Clean Currents along with your utility bill. Clean Currents will then shop for the best option and provide you a clean energy price quote from a local alternative energy supplier. If you like the price and terms, you sign up with the alternative supplier. Nothing changes in the reliability of your electricity.



Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers Scholarship

The Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers (ASCFG) is dedicated to advancing the domestic cut flower production industry. One of the best ways to support the industry is to encourage young people to consider cut flower production as a career option. With that goal in mind, the ASCFG will award \$1,000 to a student interested in cut flower production. In addition, the successful applicant will receive a one-year membership in the ASCFG and free registration for the ASCFG National Conference.



This scholarship is open to all students working toward a two- or four-year degree in horticulture or related major. Students should 1.) have worked, 2.) be currently working or 3.) plan to work after graduation in a cut flower production operation. Applicants must have at least one full year of studies remaining before finishing the degree.

Applications must be postmarked or received in the ASCFG office by January 31, 2008:

Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers, Inc.
MPO Box 268
Oberlin, OH 44074
Fax (440) 774-2435
ascfg@oberlin.net

The successful applicant will be notified by March 31, 2008 and the first installment of \$500 will be awarded after he or she has registered for fall 2008 courses. The second installment of \$500 will be awarded when the student registers for the second semester. One of the checks may be presented at an ASCFG Regional Meeting or National Conference, if one is being held nearby.

The recipient must send a photograph for publication in the *The Cut Flower Quarterly* before receiving the check.

A complete application must include the following items:

- Application form.
- Resumé (limited to one page).
- Transcripts from each school attended after high school (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
- One letter of recommendation from an employer, academic advisor, instructor, or advisor of a club in which you actively participate. Recommender should send letter directly to the ASCFG office.
- Statement explaining the following: (provide at least one page but no more than two pages)
 - Why you are interested in cut flower production.
 - Your experience in floriculture, with emphasis on cut flower production.
 - Your plans in the cut flower industry.
 - How this scholarship will be used.

Contact the ASCFG at ascfg@oberlin.net or go to www.ascfg.org for an application form.

Help the University of Maryland College of Agriculture “Go Green” at the Garden of Lights Show at Brookside Gardens

Merry makers will have an opportunity to celebrate the holiday season while helping the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources “go green.”

The college is hosting a tour through Brookside Gardens’ renowned annual winter show, the “Garden of Lights,” on Tuesday, December 11, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. More than 600,000 colored lights will illuminate winding paths among the plants and form memorable festive images at the gardens, located in Wheaton, MD. The entrance fee is \$20 per car or van.



Brookside Gardens is donating all proceeds from the tour to the Green Building Fund established by the college to cover costs of a planned “green” building at its Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Howard County. Designed to be the first green building on a land-grant university farm certified as “platinum”—the highest level—by the United States Green Building Council, the proposed building will cost an estimated \$12 million to \$15 million. It will house Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station headquarters; University of Maryland Cooperative Extension’s Commercial Horticulture programs, the Home and Garden Information Center, and Howard County Extension office; and Maryland Master Gardener, Bay-Wise Landscaping and 4-H Youth Equine programs. It also will provide research facilities for college faculty and graduate students, and offer undergraduate students unparalleled educational opportunities.

The design includes “green” roofs covered in vegetation and water-pervious surfaces in parking lots to reduce runoff, a silo wind turbine to generate energy for the building and a living machine that will biologically treat waste and waste water. Light tubes will channel natural light into the building, reducing energy usage, and rain collection systems will conserve and recycle water for cooling the building and irrigation.

Event details:

Cost: \$20 per car or van

Hours: 5:30 – 9 p.m. (last car admitted at 8:30 p.m.)

Location: 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

For directions go to: www.brooksidegardens.org

Contacts:

Brian Magness: 301-405-7733, bmagness@umd.edu

Stanton Gill: 301-596-9413, sgill@umd.edu

Pam Townsend: 301-405-4595, pbt@umd.edu



Poinsettias

One Maryland grower called asking about late-season whitefly control this week, and we recommended several products that they could try. They sprayed Judo and Safari on a small batch of poinsettias in full bract and monitored them for signs of injury. They reported no damage from either product. We had similar results in trials conducted in 2005 where Judo was sprayed on Prestige poinsettias in full bract. However, we did note that there was some residue left on the bracts and leaves.



Brown Soft Scale

We are seeing brown soft scale (*Coccus hesperidum*) this week on sweet bay. Brown soft scale feeds on a wide range of greenhouse grown plants and tropical foliage plants. This soft scale feeds in the phloem of the plant and produces copious amounts of honeydew that coats plant foliage. Sooty mold will often grow on the honeydew (**see photo**). The females are light brown, oval and generally flattened in profile. The females are what you usually find on plants.

Control: Systemic neonicotinoids applied to the soil



Deer Activity is up this Week

Be cautious when driving because deer are all over the roadways in the evening and morning hours. Four things are causing lots of deer movement at this time of year: 1.) Cold weather tends to encourage deer to migrate around an area. They hunker down in cold, wet weather. 2.) It is bow season and this makes deer jumpy. 3.) Farmers have cut most of the corn fields and soybean fields at this point and the deer will migrate from the fields toward wooded areas. 4.) Finally, it is still mating season so deer tend to migrate around looking for each other.

Monitor and protect your young pansy plants since deer love to browse on them if they are out in the open. A local facilities manager in charge of deer spraying called this week and said that he had noticed that the deer were particular about which plants they ate in an unsprayed pansy staging area. He noted that when they planted “majestic giant” pansies that the deer did not attack the beds as much.