



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

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**October 19, 2007**

**Getting Green: Sustainable Energy  
Use for the Green Industry**  
November 8, 2007  
Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium  
For more information: 301-596-9413  
A brochure is available at  
<http://www.ipmnet.umd.edu/crses97.htm>

**Oleander Aphid, *Aphis nerii***

Oleander aphids were observed on *Asclepias tuberosa* this week. These aphids are easily recognized by their bright yellow bodies with black legs and cornicles. Other hosts include *Vinca* spp. and *digitalis*.

**Control:** Plants can generally support large populations of this aphid without suffering major injury. Parasitic wasps provide some control. Note the brown aphid mummies in the background of the photo which have been parasitized.

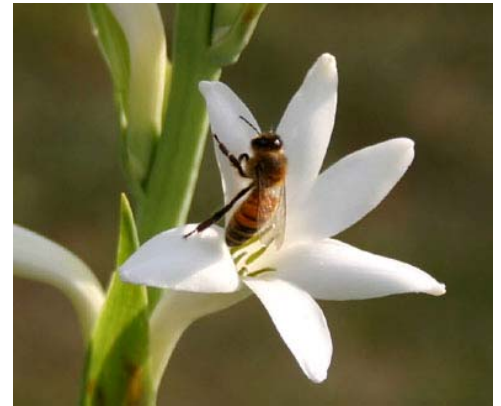


**Mexican Bush Sage, *Salvia leucantha***

This short-day blooming salvia produces flowers from late summer until frost. The velvety purple flowers are very eye catching for the fall cut flower market. If you are growing under a high tunnel, they should last until early December if the weather cooperates. This plant also attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Once a plant is established it is easy to propagate additional plants by dividing of the clump.



**Tuberose, *Polianthes tuberosa***  
Tuberose are still in bloom this week. This perennial cut flower native to Mexico produces tubular-shaped, fragrant white flowers. The scent is often compared to that of a jasmine or gardenia blossom. We found several honey bees feeding voraciously on the nectar.



***Heptacodium miconioides*, Seven-son flower**

Heptacodium are in “bloom” this week. The plant actually has small, white flowers in late August. However, it is grown for the pink sepals which appear in the early fall and persist until mid-November. Both the shape and attractive exfoliating bark of this shrub are similar to that of a crape myrtle. This plant is not known to have major insect or disease problems, and could be a good choice for someone considering a woody cut stem to grow at their operation.



**Effects of the drought can be seen in the size difference between the photo taken in 2005 on the left and the one on the right taken this week.**

**Viburnum, Winterberry, and Beautyberry are all looking great this week. The following are from Ginny Rosenkranz's *Plant of the Week* Column...**

***Viburnum trilobum***

As the nights drop into shiver temperatures the foliage of some trees and shrubs begin to stand out in the landscape as brilliant beacons of bright lights. The American cranberrybush viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*) has quite a few cultivars that qualify for both spectacular fall foliage and bright red berries. This native shrub grows 8 -12 feet tall and broad and is often used as an attractive deciduous hedge in full sun to partly shady landscapes. The plants will thrive as long as the soils can stay moist. The plants tend to decline in drought stress conditions. This is a northern plant that grows



well in zone 2 to 7 so will thrive in the western counties of Maryland, but will not handle the heat in Southern Maryland or the Eastern Shore. The new trident shaped foliage often emerges with a reddish tint that turns to a dark green throughout the summer. The white flowers of the American cranberrybush viburnum resemble the lace cap hydrangea in appearance, bloom in May and expand up to 4 inches in diameter. Some of the cultivars that excel in the landscape include 'Wentworth' for its spectacular fall color of both foliage and fruit, 'Compactum' for its compact dwarf form and 'Red Wing' for the colorful red foliage and leaf petioles during the growing season and the heavy flowering in the springtime.

***Ilex verticillata***

Winter is quickly approaching with cold weather coloring the foliage of many deciduous trees and shrubs. Soon the leaves will blow off the trees leaving the lovely silhouettes of trunk and branch to shine in the sunlight. Other plants will shine even more due to brightly colored berries that may last far into the winter.



Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*, is one plant that actually looks better without any of the leaves on! Like all holly, only the female plants are adorned with the bright fruit, but it is always an excellent idea to have a male holly of the same cultivar to insure the winter bounty. *Ilex verticillata* are large native shrubs, growing up 6 to 10 feet tall and wide and by October are almost covered with bright red fruit. This holly grows well in zone 7 and slowly develops into multi-stemmed clumps in light or heavy soils as long as there is good organic mater, an acid pH and moisture available.

Because these hollies have few disease or insect pests, they will grow well in many landscapes either in small groups or in large mass plantings. There are many excellent cultivars including 'Red Sprite' and 'Winter Red'. Male pollinators include 'Southern Gentleman' and 'Jim Dandy'. Many hybrids (*Ilex verticillata* x *Ilex serrata*) have been bred which seem to have more vigor, heavier fruiting and earlier fruiting. Some of the outstanding hybrids include 'Sparkleberry', 'Bonfire' with 'Apollo' as the male pollinator.



***Ilex verticillata* sometimes suffer from leaf spot diseases later in the season. However, most growers don't consider this to be a major problem since the stems are usually sold after the foliage has dropped.**

### ***Callicarpa americana***

American beautyberry is a small shrub that grows about 4 to 6 feet tall and wide. During the spring and summer the foliage is a medium green. In July small pink flowers appear at the axils of the leaves on new wood. By September the flowers have matured into spectacular bright purple clusters of shiny berries that encircle the stems. The foliage turns purple in the autumn and the berries persist on the stems long into the winter season. Although the beautyberry lives in zones 5-8, it can be treated as an herbaceous perennial and should have the old or dead wood pruned back in the early spring. If purple berries are not what your clients want, there are pink and white cultivars available, although they are not as winter hardy.



***Callicarpa americana* 'Welch's Pink'**

**Poinsettias**

As we move into the cloudier weather of October, light quality decreases and we often see a slowing of movement of calcium from the substrate into poinsettia leaves and bracts. If calcium does not move properly into the foliage, the deficiency will show up as bract edge burn in November and December.



Many growers switch to mainly calcium nitrate based fertilizers and make foliar applications of calcium chloride to strengthen stems and prevent bract edge burn. Applying a fine mist of 200-400 ppm calcium chloride with a spreader sticker once a week is recommended. Final growth regulator applications should also be made by late October to avoid a decrease in the bract size.

Amount of Final Spray Solution	Calcium Chloride Dihydrate CaCL <sub>2</sub> 2H <sub>2</sub> O	Calcium Chloride Anhydrous CaCL <sub>2</sub>
	~27% Calcium	~39% Calcium
100 gallons	16 ounces	12 ounces
25 gallons	4 ounces	3 ounces
3 gallons	0.5 ounces	0.4 ounces
Approximate ppm calcium in final solution	324 ppm	357 ppm

**Source: 1999 Paul Ecke Ranch**