



**TPM/IPM Weekly Report for Arborists,  
Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension**

**April 4, 2008**

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

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**Regular Contributors:**

**Pest and Beneficial Insect Information:** Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialist)

**Disease Information:** Karen Rane (Plant Pathologist) and David Clement (Extension Specialist)

**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)

Please call us if you are a commercial horticultural business finding insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems in the landscape or nursery. Send submissions to [Sklick@umd.edu](mailto:Sklick@umd.edu) or call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413.

**Cherry Blooms – Right on Cue and Perfect in 2008**

On Sunday, March 30, I (Stanton) had a chance to visit downtown Washington and view the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. I cannot remember a year when the blooms looked so perfect. The weather has been very cooperative and the floral display is primo this year. It was very crowded on Sunday with lots of people out enjoying this spring ritual. From the entomological side I have to say that the park service has done a good job of cleaning up the white prunicola scale on the cherry trees around the tidal basin. It shows what properly timed treatments will do to control scale populations.

**Quince / *Latinia* Scale on Foster Holly**

Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts, wins the prize for finding an interesting armored scale on foster holly. Marty brought in an armored scale which I (Stanton) thought was walnut scale on foster holly. John Davidson made a slide mount of the scale and identified the armored scale as *Hemiberlesia lataniae*, commonly called the Quince scale or *Latinia* scale. It is a general feeder and is reported on over 224 genera of plants, including foster holly.



Thank you to the Maryland Arborist Association, the Landscape Contractors Association of MD, D.C. and VA, the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association and FALCAN for your financial support in making these weekly reports possible. Photographs by Suzanne Klick, Stanton Gill or Shannon Wadkins unless otherwise noted. 1

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## Biology of This Scale

This scale overwinters as second instar males and females on leaves and bark of the host. Males will be out in May and will mate with the mature females. The crawlers should be out in June. We will let you know when we get a report on crawler activity (this should be in June) so you can zero in your timing. A second generation occurs in late summer with eggs present in mid –August to early September and crawlers shortly after eggs are laid.

**Control:** Distance applied after crawlers are active.

## Twig Girdler, *Oncideres cingulata*

Steve Sullivan, The Brickman Group, emailed us a photo of an interesting sample. Branches from a tree had been girdled and looked like a miniature beaver had been working on the branch. Adult twig girdlers, a type of long-horned beetle, were active last October and November cutting away tissue on twigs and small branches of host trees. Eggs were laid by females into the terminal twigs. She then girdles the branch so it falls to the ground where the larvae have been developing within the woody center of the branches. The life cycle will be completed this season with pupation in mid-summer. Twig girdlers attack hickory, elm, persimmon and hackberry.



**Monitoring:** A diagnostic characteristic for this pest is many small branches accumulating on the ground under the host plants in the late fall. Upon examination the cut end of the branch will have the “beaver cut” appearance.

**Control:** The damage is interesting but not worth trying to treat to prevent. This is just one of those interesting things those darn insects do in their spare time. There’s nothing to worry about. Picking up and removing the branches (be sure to destroy them or move them far away) before adults emerge in early fall should reduce the population.

## Smaller European Elm Bark Beetle, *Scolytus multistriatus*

The elms were starting to leaf out in Washington this week. The larvae of the elm bark beetle have been overwintering under the bark of the host trees. We can expect to see adult beetles in the upcoming weeks. The adult beetles are about 2 -3 mm long with black head and thorax and reddish-brown elytra. If you find activity of adults in your areas let us know. If you see wilting branches on elm in April and May cut off a sample and submit it to the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic.



**Photo by Maja Jurc, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, forestryimages.org**

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### Juniper webworm

Doug Stagmer and Steve Sullivan, The Brickman Group, are finding juniper webworm in Maryland this week. Doug found it in Silver Spring on Japanese garden juniper (*Juniperus procumbens*). Steve found it in on shore juniper (*Juniperus conferta*) in Columbia. This caterpillar overwinters as late instar larvae and is usually found in *Juniperus* species. The later instar caterpillars are tan with darker longitudinal stripes.

**Monitoring:** The larvae actively feed from March through late April. Pupation occurs on the plant and adults will start to appear sometime in May to June. Examine the inner foliage of junipers for caterpillars and webbing. You may occasionally find them on Alberta spruce too.

**Control:** Spinosad (Conserve) works very effectively in controlling the larvae of this Lepidopterous pest. Be sure to get coverage of the inner plant where the caterpillars feed.



**Damage caused by juniper webworm**



**Webbing made by juniper webworm**

### Pine Bark Adelgid

John Stuart reported pine bark adelgid on pines in Washington DC on March 28. Pine bark adelgids overwinter as immatures on the bark and undergo several generations per year.

**Monitor:** This adelgid is most common on white pines but is sometimes found on Scotch and Austrian pines. It produces an abundance of white wax. Pines will appear to have “snow” on their trunks and large branches.

**Control:** Pines seem to tolerate relatively high levels of this pest and chemical controls are usually not warranted. Scrubbing the adelgids off the bark with a scrub brush and water should knock back the population. Note: there are many predators that attack this adelgid. If you decide to treat use a horticultural oil. This will knock down the adelgid population and conserve natural enemies so they can keep the population down. **Photo by John Stuart**



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## Eastern Tent Caterpillar

An IPM scout with The Brickman Group reported that eastern tent caterpillars have been feeding for the last two weeks in Laurel. Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts, brought in a sample of larvae feeding on crabapple in Elkridge.

**Control:** Rosaceous trees are the most common hosts of eastern tent caterpillar. Monitor for and prune out any unhatched egg cases. Physically destroy (pull apart) any tents that are being formed in the branch crotches of host trees. This will expose the caterpillars to natural enemies (ex. birds) and harsh environmental factors (cold nights) and reduce their populations.



## Mites

In response to last week's report, David Crank, Bayer Environmental Science, noted in an e-mail that Forbid is also available for mite control – eggs, nymphs and adults.

## Beneficial of the Week (by Paula Shrewsbury)

### Metallic Green Tiger Beetles

Earlier this week on one of the nicer weather days we had, I was running along a sunny trail and saw my first tiger beetle of the season take flight from its sunny spot on the trail. Tiger beetles are commonly seen in sunny patches of trails and walkways near wooded areas. I have also seen them in nurseries among the tree rows. As you near these beetles on a path you will see them quickly alight and fly about 5 – 10'. They are one of the most beautiful insects with their metallic green color, but are deadly if you are a small insect wandering on the ground. These beetles are generalist predators that forage or hunt along the ground. They have very large mandibles that they use to munch down their food. They feed on arthropods such as ants, flies, beetles, etc. Tiger beetles are another predator that can be added to the complex of natural enemies that help to prevent herbivores from reaching damaging population levels. There are several species of tiger beetles which vary in color. To learn more about the green tiger beetle, visit:

[http://www.raupplab.umd.edu/bugweek/archive/BugOfWeek\\_19.html](http://www.raupplab.umd.edu/bugweek/archive/BugOfWeek_19.html)



**Adult six spotted metallic green tiger beetle, *Cicindela sexguttata*, a generalist predator (Photo by Mike Raupp, UMD).**

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## Fire Blight and Apple Scab Update From Anne DeMarsay, Plant Pathologist

Apply a copper spray to knock down fire blight inoculum at 1/4" green tip, which should be soon in the southern half of Maryland.

Apple scab ascospores may be floating around as soon as there's any green showing on the buds. The Winchester and WVU-Kearneysville research stations trap ascospores, and they typically catch the first one around March 30. This year, VT-Winchester research station is reporting that they trapped the first apple scab ascospores on March 31-April 1. Depending on the amount of inoculum that's likely to be around, trees may need protection as early as 1/4" green. I checked with Keith Yoder, the apple pathologist from Winchester, and he suggested that a copper spray for fire blight at 1/4" green tip would also provide about a week of protection from scab, then one could follow up with another material specifically for scab. He suggests that growers not wait until they or their scouts see the olive-green leaf lesions from the ascospores. Scab is like powdery mildew; by the time you see the primary infections, the secondary cycle is well underway.

## Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Thanks for all the contact on last week's weed. These articles are written to cover many different types of turf, and there is a need to specify which mowing heights are appropriate for different species of turf grass. Turf needs are different. One of the purposes of varying mowing heights is to determine the proper height that helps each species of turf grow well, shade potential weeds and have enough surface area to photosynthesize. The chart below is an adaptation of one offered by the University of Maryland on TT-63.

Lawn grass	Spring and Summer	Autumn and Winter
Kentucky bluegrass	2.5 - 3.0 inches	2.0 inches
Perennial ryegrass	2.5 - 3.0 inches	2.0 inches
Tall fescue	2.5 - 3.5 inches	2.5 inches
Fine leaf fescue	3.0 - 4.0 inches	3.0 inches
Zoysiagrass	0.5 - 1.0 inches	0.5 - 1.5 inches

Some may even consider mowing at a higher height, which provides additional shading of the ground thus preventing germination of some weeds.

This week's weed of the week is **henbit**. Henbit, *Lamium amplexicaule*, is a winter annual. Henbit is preparing to go to seed or in some areas may have started the process already. This weed can be found throughout the United States and is prolific in the eastern United States. Henbit is different than deadnettle. Henbit has square stems, and a pink to purple flower. The leaves are round to heart-shaped with a rounded tooth leaf margin. Deadnettle will have upper leaves that are triangular in shape. The leaves will have hairs on the upper surface and along the veins on the underside. Leaves are opposite and upper leaves will develop without



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petioles. Henbit can develop stems up to sixteen inches in length. Flowers will occur in whorls on the upper leaves and will be without petioles. Henbit has a fibrous root system, and can develop roots at nodes on the square stems.

To prevent henbit from being able to complete the seeding cycle one has several products which can be used. Use of some products with the cool weather may allow henbit to continue to grow long enough to disperse its seed. Look for products that are safe to use in the cool weather, which include Speedzone or a 2,4-D Ester. The ester formulation is generally avoided as it volatilizes in warm temperatures, but with our cool frosty nights it is still very effective. There are many other products that can be used, and the mention of these does not indicate an endorsement of any product.



**Henbit**



**Deadnettle**

### **Plant of the Week**

Vines are wonderful plants and fast growing. When an instant hedge is needed, put up a trellis and plant a vine, when instant shade is needed, put up a pergola and plant a vine. On the other hand, any plant that grows more than 5 feet a year can almost always be considered an invasive weed! *Akebia quinata*, fiveleaf akebia, also known as the chocolate vine is such a vine. In the early spring chocolate vine will be covered with small, fragrant purple-chocolate colored flowers in clusters. The flowers begin to emerge in late March and continue until the end of April. The foliage is composed of palmately compound 5 leaflets in a blue green color. In the fall the fruit is purple and lavender sausage shaped pods about 2 to 4 inches long. There is a white flowering cultivar, 'Alba', a rose flowering cultivar, 'Rosea' and a variegated cultivar with green and white foliage and pink flowers called 'Variegata'. Although chocolate vine prefers to grow in the sun, it can adapt to shade gardens as well. Once established



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chocolate vine will tolerate either moist or dry soil and is not picky about sandy, loamy or clay soils. No disease or insects pests are listed as problems with the plant, only the warning to keep an eye on the rampant growth of the vine and the recommendation to stay on top of the pruning schedule so chocolate vine grows only where it should grow.

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Plant Stage</b> (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	<b>Location</b>
<i>Cymophyllus fraseri</i>	First Bud	Silver Run/Reisterstown
<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Helleborus hybridus</i> 'Phedar Select Strain'	Full Bloom	Silver Run/Reisterstown
<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Full Bloom	Ellicott City
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Full Bloom	Ellicott City

**Degree Day Information (as of April 3):**

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	42
Dulles Airport	48
Hagerstown, MD	18
Mechanicsville, MD	45
National Arboretum	47
Reagan National	88
Salisbury	72

**Invasive Species Training: with an Emphasis on Insect Invaders for Arborists and Professional Landscapers**

Stanton Gill and Mike Raupp, University of Maryland, and Dick Bean, Maryland Department of Agriculture, will conduct lectures and hands-on sessions to help professionals learn to identify emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle and a wood wasp, *Sirex noctilio*.

**April 11, 2008 (8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)**

**Location:** Lisbon Fire Hall, Woodbine, Maryland

**For more information:** 301-596-9413 or <http://ipmnet.umd.edu/crses97.htm>



Stanton Gill



Chuck Schuster



Paula Shrewsbury



Ginny Rosenkranz



Karen Rane

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