



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

**April 11, 2008**

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

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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.

**Rain Here in April**

We are starting out with perfectly timed rains and plant material is pushing out flowers and new growth right on the dot. **The big question is “are we out of the drought?”**

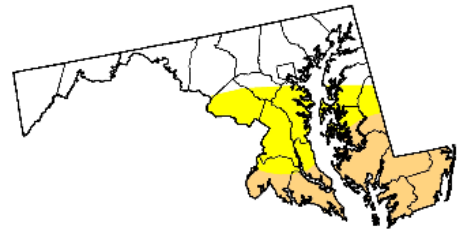
**The map is from the U.S. Drought Monitor from April 8, 2008.**

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Maryland**

**April 8, 2008**  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|   | None  | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Current                                       | 49.0  | 51.0  | 27.4  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0 |
| Last Week<br>(04/01/2008 map)                 | 49.0  | 51.0  | 27.4  | 17.2  | 0.0   | 0.0 |
| 3 Months Ago<br>(01/15/2008 map)              | 20.8  | 79.2  | 51.3  | 14.9  | 0.0   | 0.0 |
| Start of<br>Calendar Year<br>(01/01/2008 map) | 40.3  | 59.7  | 35.9  | 19.3  | 0.0   | 0.0 |
| Start of<br>Water Year<br>(10/02/2007 map)    | 6.8   | 93.2  | 86.0  | 47.4  | 0.0   | 0.0 |
| One Year Ago<br>(04/10/2007 map)              | 100.0 | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0 |



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements*

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



**Released Thursday, April 10, 2008**  
Author: Rich Tinker, CPC/NOAA

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It appears that the Central/Northern counties in Maryland have moved out of the drought conditions into normal conditions. The southern Maryland counties and the upper eastern shore is still in moderate drought conditions. The lower Eastern shore is still in extreme drought conditions. I (Stanton) said it for the last two seasons: forward thinking nursery managers are using trickle irrigation systems to ride through these really tough drought times. If you are in an area with moderate to severe drought ratings it would be wise to look into trickle irrigation if you don't already have it installed.

### **Where Are We Compared to Last Year at This Time?**

Several people are commenting that the warm weather of spring is really slow getting here in 2008. I think because Easter was so early everyone has expected the warm weather to show up right after Easter. I looked back at the April 13 report for 2007 and we were just coming out of a temperature drop to 27 – 29 °F. In comparison this spring looks pretty good so far. It would help to see some warmer temperatures to get everyone out and buying plants. Hang in there – warm weather is around the corner.

### **Hardwood Mulch Shortage Coming?**

One of the interesting side impacts from the slow down in the housing market is that less land is being cleared. Usually the land that is cleared for housing is hardwoods. This waste product of the housing industry has been supplying the bulk of the hardwood mulch that is used in the landscape industry. There is less available hardwood mulch in 2008 and if the housing market stays down much longer there could be a shortage of hardwood mulch in 2009.

### **Good Time for Alternative Mulches?**

You bet. Loblolly pine needles are available from the south. They have not been too popular in our area because of the cost but if hardwood mulch is in short supply it may be a viable alternative.

### **Winged Ants in the Landscape**

While you are working in customers' landscapes you might notice a large red colored ant with wings hanging around in mulch beds or near sidewalks. One of the common ants we are getting inquiries about in early April is the citronella ant. They become very active when the temperature warms up and usually right after a rain period. At this time of year they produce winged (alate) male and females. The males are darker colored and about 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the females. The winged females are out and producing pheromones to attract males. The citronella ant is pretty much harmless so you can let your customers know that there is no need for control.



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**Fall Cankerworm, *Alsophilia pometaria***

As the temperatures warm up this next week (let's think positive) the fall cankerworm will be found feeding on oaks in April. Their defoliation can be very rapid. If you see activity in your area, please let us know where you are seeing the activity. In 2006 we saw heavy defoliation in the Anne Arundel County area. Host plants include ash, basswood, beech, boxelder (not that anyone is worried about this pest on boxelder), black cherry, elm, red and sugar maples, red and white oaks. The larvae are light green to sometimes dark brownish green. The light green forms have white lines along the body. Brown forms (photo) have a broad black stripe on the back. The larvae have 3 pairs of prolegs.

**Control:** Bt or Conserve



**Imported Willow Leaf beetle, *Plagioderma versicolora*, family Chrysomelidae**

The star magnolias are in bloom in Baltimore City and in College Park, MD. When this plant's blooms are starting to fade and red buds start to bloom we should expect to see activity from the adult willow leaf beetles that have been overwintering in protected spots in the landscape. In Carroll County, imported willow leaf beetles are being found in monitoring traps this week. They will be visiting willow trees. With the increase interest in native plants willows are being planted in a lot of landscapes, especially in wet areas.

**Monitoring:** Adults coming out of overwintering will be hungry and they will eat small round holes in the foliage of willow. Females will start laying eggs at the end of April to early May, depending on where you are located in the state. The eggs are yellow and laid in a kind of disorganized cluster. The hatching larvae are black with tubercles (types of spines) on the body. The larvae feed in groups, skeletonizing the leaves.

**Control:** Depends – if the willow is in a highly visible location in the landscape you may choose to spray the trees. If it is in a natural setting and your customer can live with skeletonized leaves then the tree will not die from the damage but it will be unattractive. Doing nothing is ok if the plant is not a specimen in the landscape.



**Larvae of imported willow leaf beetle**



**Adult imported willow leaf beetle**  
Natasha Wright, Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services, US

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### Eastern Tent Caterpillars

The eastern tent caterpillars at Lake Artemisia in College Park are about 1.5 – 2” long at this point. In Washington County they just hatched out this last week. Marie Rojas, IPM scout, is finding high numbers in Adamstown on a variety of *Prunus* species, in particular the ‘Thundercloud Plum’, and several *Malus* species, including ‘Prairifire’, ‘Donald Wayman’, and ‘Select A’. You can really see the temperature differences with insect emergence at this time of year.

### Ambrosia Beetle Traps

We received beetle samples from a trap in Harford County area and also from a site in Carroll County. The traps contained the native ambrosia beetle, *Monathrum fasciatum* as shown below.



### Ambrosia Beetles, *Xylosandrus germanus*

We received a sample today of sweet bay magnolia with ambrosia beetles boring into the stem and kicking out frass as shown in the photo. In the photo, the beetle is right inside the hole. This species was also found in *Cornus kousa* ‘Milky Way’.

**Control:** Now is the time to treat with Onyx (nurseries); Onyx or Astro (landscapes).



### Juniper webworm, *Dichomeris marginella*, family Gelechiidae

The report of juniper webworm in the April 4 report needs a bit more explanation. First off, this caterpillar usually damages *Juniperus* species, especially *J. hibernica*, *J. horizontalis*, *J. depressa*, *J. aurea*, *J. stricta*, *J. squamata* and *J. squamata*. The moths laid the eggs on the junipers last summer. The eggs were laid on the leaves near the base of the current season’s growth. When laid, the eggs are white to yellow and turn red just before hatch. The young larvae feed as leafminers. The larvae web together leaves into silken tubes. The larvae put out silk from their mouth to create this webbing. Since the webbing is small and the caterpillars feed in this small

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webbed space they often go unnoticed. Also they tend to web the thick inner growth of the juniper making it hard to detect. In the spring when the webbed branches start to turn brown they become noticeable in the landscape. The larvae in the spring produce a lot more webbing and it is much more noticeable. The larvae themselves are buried deep inside the webbing and dead branches. Digging was needed to find the larvae of the picture in last Friday's report. The larvae that were found last week had overwintered in this larval form. They will pupate in a month or so and adults will be active in May to June.

**Control:** At this time of year the easiest control is to prune out the infested foliage. In mid-late summer you should examine junipers and look for the young larvae and webbing of the needles. You might find small branches webbed together with a small caterpillar within the webs if you pull the foliage back and examine closely. In the fall when the caterpillars are small you could apply Bt or Conserve to control these early instar larvae before they inflict their damage.

### **Cedar Apple Rust**

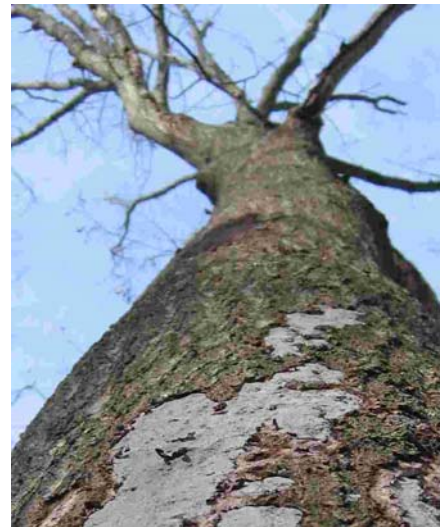
Glenn Gladders, Delaware Forest Service reports seeing some great cedar-apple rust (*Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*) galls with telial horns with all the rain recently. Adam Newhart, City of Gaithersburg, found cedar apple rust galls while doing some pruning this week in Gaithersburg.



**Cedar apple rust on eastern redcedar. Photo by Glenn Gladders**

### **Hypoxylon Canker**

Glenn Gladders is also seeing considerable mortality on oaks and other species from *Hypoxylon* spp. throughout Delaware. He expects to see more this year because of successive years of drought. Trees stressed from drought or root damage are more susceptible to this disease. No effective controls are available for this disease.



**Dead scarlet oak with stroma of *Hypoxylon* visible. Photo by Glenn Gladders**

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### **Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster**

Wild carrot or Queen Anne 's lace is our new weed for this week. Wild Carrot, *Daucus carota*, is a biennial weed that can be found in many nursery, landscape and new lawns throughout the United States. The first year's growth will appear very similar to that of the common carrot, and during the second year it will bolt and produce a tall stalk with a flat topped white flower. This flower is collected by many and used in flower arrangements.

Wild carrot will produce a thick taproot, a stem during its second year that is hollow, and leaves that are lobed rosette the first year and are alternate and lobed the second year. Very similar to common yarrow, wild carrot will produce leaves which have hairs on the underside during the second year.

Control can be easy in the turf setting with many of the broadleaf herbicides doing a very good job. These products include 2,4-D, MCPP, dicamba and combinations of these. Around our trees and shrubs, concern for some of these products due to potential drift and volatilization must be considered. Spot spraying with non selective translocated products work very well in landscape settings.



### **Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz**

Weeping cherry trees (*Prunus subhirtella pendula*) are in full bloom now, with dark pink to light pink flowers on gracefully arching branches. When in bloom it can steal the show from any other plants in the landscape. When not in bloom, the silhouette of the weeping cherry will still be a focal point in the landscape. Weeping cherry grows best in full sun with moist but very well drained soils. Most of the weeping cherries are grafted with 3 to 5 grafts onto understock at 6 feet, creating an instant umbrella shaped tree. The tree can be grown from seed and will slowly mature into an uneven weeping shape that is still pleasing to the eye. Although Ambrosia beetles and a bacterial leaf spot can harm the tree, the most damage to the tree is caused by the understock. If weeping cherry is stressed in the landscape planting, the more vigorous understock will begin to sprout branches along the trunk or just under the grafted stock. If not pruned properly and quickly, the understock can quickly take over and reduces the graceful weeping effect.



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## What's in bloom

| Plant   | Plant Stage<br>(Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom,<br>first leaf) | Location                    |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <i>Comptonia peregrina</i>                          | First Bloom   | Silver Run                  |
| <i>Corylopsis spicata</i>                           | Full Bloom  | Silver Run                  |
| <i>Dirca palustris</i>                              | Full Bloom  | Silver Run                  |
| <i>Lindera benzoin</i>                              | First Bloom<br>Full Bloom   | Silver Run<br>Ellicott City |
| <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i><br>(Mayapple)           | First Leaf  | Ellicott City (4/9)         |
| <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i><br>'Tennessee Form'   | Full Bloom  | Silver Run                  |
| <i>Shortia galacifolia</i>                          | Full Bloom  | Silver Run                  |
| <i>Spirea prunifolia</i><br>(Bridalwreath spirea)   | First Bloom   | Ellicott City (4/9)         |
| <i>Vibrunum carlesii</i><br>(Korean spice viburnum) | First Bloom   | Clinton (4/10)              |

## Degree Day Information (as of April 9):

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Baltimore, MD (BWI) | 49  |
| Dulles Airport      | 61  |
| Hagerstown, MD      | 24  |
| Mechanicsville, MD  | 55  |
| National Arboretum  | 54  |
| Reagan National     | 106 |
| Salisbury           | 87  |



Stanton Gill



Chuck  
Schuster



Paula Shrewsbury



Ginny  
Rosenkranz



Karen Rane

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