



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

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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 or call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413.

Fireblight

The rain over the weekend and the warming trend has made conditions perfect for spreading the infection on plants. We continue to receive e-mails and calls with reports of fireblight throughout Maryland. When we get a dry period, you can prune out the infested growth, cutting at least 10 - 12" below the cankered areas.

Euonymus Caterpillars, *Yponomeuta cagnagella*

We had reports of euonymus caterpillar activity from Prince George's and Howard counties this week. This is different from the invasive leaf notcher euonymus caterpillar we reported on last month. This caterpillar creates webs over the ends of branches and the caterpillars feed in groups on the tip growth of the plant. They can defoliate branches very rapidly. The euonymus caterpillar is a member of the ermine moth family and is native to Europe, the Middle East and parts of Asia. It was first found in the US in 1967.

Control: Conserve will control the larvae. Pruning out infested branch tips is another option.



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.

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Hickory Leafstem Gall Phylloxera, *Phylloxera* and Tarnished Plant Bugs, *Lygus lineolaris*

Bob Mead, Mead Tree and Turf, brought in hickory with swollen galls on the leaf petioles of hickory. The overwintering eggs hatched back in April near buds. The nymphs inject a toxin that causes the leaf petiole to swell and galls to form. There is not much that you can do for it at this time of year. On this same sample of hickory there were nymphs and adults of tarnished plant bugs. Tarnished plant bug is very active at this time of year and can be found on a wide range of plants from shade trees, fruit trees and herbaceous perennials. They have sucking mouthparts that they insert into leaves causing puckering of expanding leaves. If your customers have fruit trees, especially plums and peach, they will pierce the fruit and cause a distortion called ‘cat facing’ of the fruit.



Hickory leafstem gall phylloxera



Tarnished plant bug

European Elm Bark Beetles out and attacking Chinese Elm

Ben Hall, Mainscapes, brought in samples of European bark beetles, *Scolytus multistriatus*, that were attacking Chinese elm in the Columbia area this week. The plants were recently transplanted and had a lot of beetles chewing into the small twigs of the Chinese elm. This beetle is the one that carried Dutch elm disease from unhealthy to healthy trees wiping out most of the native elms in the United States. Fortunately, Chinese elm is usually not heavily damaged by Dutch elm disease.



European bark beetles tend to attack at small branch junctures and feeds within the phloem. The female can only mate when burrowed in and is often mated in this twig juncture. After she is ready to lay eggs she moves to a new burrow in the bark in two to four inch stems and proceeds to excavate the xylem.

Photo: Pest and Diseases Image Library, Australia, www.forestryimages.org

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Euonymus Scale, *Unaspis euonymi*

The first generation of euonymus scale is out now. We found crawlers in the Brookeville area on June 2.

Control: Distance, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap.

Pine Needle Scale

Bob Mead brought in pine needle scale from the Columbia area. The crawlers were evident on the sample.

Control: Distance, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap.

Cottony Camellia/Taxus, Lecanium and Calico Scales

Marie Rojas IPM Scout, reported crawlers of cottony camellia/taxus scale on hollies and lecanium scale on hackberry in Chevy Chase on June 4. Marie also found crawlers of calico scale on honeylocust in Adamstown on June 4.

Spittlebugs

Ginny Rosenkranz has noticed a lot of spittlebugs on loblolly pine this spring on the Eastern Shore. Marie Rojas is also finding them on white pines in Beallsville. Kevin Nickle, ProLawn Plus, brought in a fir sample with a spittlebug this week.

Control: Not necessary



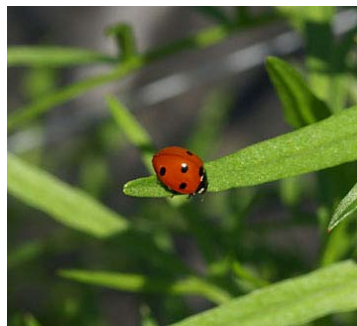
Aphids and Beneficial Insects

We continue to get reports of aphid activity this week. Marie Rojas reported elm cockscomb aphid and woolly elm aphid on ‘Valley Forge’ elms in Adamstown.

Control: We are receiving reports of lady bird beetle activity where aphid populations are present. Syrphid flies are another predator of aphids. Look for beneficial insects when considering control measures.



Lady bird beetle larvae



Lady bird beetle adult



Syrphid fly larva

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pH Problems in the Frederick Area

We had a call from a landscape architect who was looking to adjust the pH down at a museum in the Frederick area. The pH at the site is presently 7.9. The soil pH level in Frederick tends to be high with the large limestone deposits in and around the city. I spoke Jerry Faulring at Waverly Farm in Adamstown since they deal with the high pH soils at their farm. They apply granule sulfur before they plant at 600 lbs per acre rate (this is about 14 lbs/1000 sq ft). Jerry said this knocks the pH down 1 to 1.5 units (7.0 down to 5.5 - 6.0) Jerry mentioned that parts of Frederick County sit on over 400 feet of limestone deposit so the soil pH will migrate back up again within 2 -3 years. Jerry mentioned that the alkalinity in many wells in Frederick County is over 600 ppm (bicarbonates and carbonates). Jerry mentioned that in wet seasons like the May of 2008 the acidic rainfall tends to help keep the pH from coming up. In dry years like last year he commented that the soil pH tend to rise when nurseries use trickle irrigation and are applying more of the ground water. They use ammonia sulfate applied through their trickle irrigation to keep the pH down.

Check the alkalinity of the water used so you can adjust your fertility program or know that you will need to re-adjust the pH in a couple of years. A chart for lowering soil pH is available from Clemson University at <http://hubcap.clemson.edu/~blpprt/lowerpH.html>

Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Common mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*, is a biennial weed of landscapes and nurseries throughout much of the United States. This weed was introduced into the United States for its medicinal purposes, but no claims are made to the effectiveness of it.

The leaves of common mullein develop as a prostrate growing basal rosette during the first year. During the second year the stem will develop with leaves growing alternately along the tall flowering stem. Leaves are covered with a fine hair, will be larger near the base of the plant, up to 18 inches in length and have a long oval shape. Leaves will become progressively smaller up the stem. The stem will develop during the second year of growth, and may reach up to six feet in height. The unbranched stem will also be covered with fine wool-like hair. Common mullein will have a deep taproot with fibrous roots developing from it. Flowers will develop at the end of the flowering stem, are yellow in color, and will have five petals with a total diameter up to one inch. This weed will produce many flowers on the upper section of the stem. It is similar to moth mullein, but moth mullein will be smaller and not have the hairs on the leaves.

Control of common mullein can be obtained using several techniques. Prevent bare soil exposure in turf; a dense tall turf will be an excellent first line of defense. Hand pulling can be done effectively during the first year, but is time consuming. In a landscape setting, mulch is an excellent first line of defense. Use a 2% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr with enough coverage to wet all the leaves. Avoid runoff if possible as glyphosate will kill whatever it contacts.



Photo by Chuck Schuster

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Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz

Chinese fringe-flower, *Loropetalum chinense*, grows in both sun or light shade and depending on the cultivar can be a small or very large shrub. The fragrant white or pink flowers are shaped a bit like the witch-hazel with many thin petals.

The flowers bloom continuously throughout the spring, summer and into fall in shades of pure white, soft pink, bright pink or hot pink. The foliage can be green or a bronze purple and is evergreen in most winters. The size and shape of the Chinese fringe-flower also depends on the cultivar. Some, like ‘Ruby’, are rounded and compact, growing only 3-5’ tall, others become arching vase-shaped shrubs like Fire Dance™ and others like ‘Burgundy’ can become small trees reaching 14’ tall. Chinese fringe-flower prefers to grow in morning sun with afternoon shade, and in moist, well drained soils with a lot of organic material. Because of the shallow root system, the Chinese fringe-flower should be protected from drying winds, especially in the winter.



What’s in Bloom

Plant	Plant Stage (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	Location
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Clematis westerplatte</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Indigofera kirilowii</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> ‘Olympic Fire’	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> ‘Serotina Florida’	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i> ‘Morris Berg’	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> ‘Luteus’	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Scutellaria serrata</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Silene campion</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Sophora davidii</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Stranvaesia davidiana</i> ;‘Winterthor’	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Veronica austriaca</i> ‘Darwin’s Blue’	First Bloom	Silver Run

Degree Day Information (as of June 4):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	647	Dulles Airport	683
Hagerstown, MD	574	Mechanicsville, MD	637
National Arboretum	768	Reagan National	902
Salisbury	662		

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