



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

May 16, 2008

Coordinator of the electronic weekly IPM report:

Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist, IPM for Nursery, Greenhouse and Managed Landscapes,
Sgill@umd.edu. 301-596-9413 (office) or 410-868-9400 (cell)

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 Ctr)

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 or call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413.

It's Raining Oak Branches

We had several landscape managers call in reporting that customers are finding short branches of oaks dropping onto the lawn and landscapes. If you look at the ends of the branches you will see that these branches have been gnawed off. The squirrels are very active clipping small branches to make their nest high in the trees. They drop a lot of the branches in this process.

Maryland Crabs – Used in Medicine

The University of Maryland Diamondback Newspaper published that 3 University of Maryland students are working on a special bandage that use chitosan, an enzyme derived from crabs to help victims clot blood. It also is reported to help regenerate skin. The Maryland blue crab may soon have many good uses. If they do this with chitin from blue crabs why not chitin from insects?

White Prunicola Scale, *Pseudaulacaspis prunicola*

Rick Koch, Webb Tree, brought in white prunicola scale on cherry laurel this week. This scale is commonly found on prunus species but is also found on magnolia, ligustrum, rhododendron, forsythia, boxwood, and lilac. The sample that Rick brought in had females with eggs inside that were ready to hatch very soon. Check for crawlers this week.

Control: Distance or horticultural oil



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.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

Elongate Hemlock (Fiorinia) Scale, *Fiorinia externa*

Rick Koch also brought in elongate hemlock scale on hemlock. The crawlers were just starting to become active. This armored scale tends to have continuous overlapping generations through the summer into the fall, according to Jim Stimmel, formally of PA Department of Agriculture.

Control: Distance or horticultural oil. Some managers have reported using Safari for control of this scale. We have not tested this out yet but we have used Safari for *Cryptomeria* scale, another armored scale, on fir trees and obtained good control.

Rosy Apple Aphid, *Dysaphis plantaginea* and Black Cherry Aphid, *Myzus cerasi*

The rosy apple aphid is very active this week on crabapples and cultivated apple trees. The aphid injects a toxin that causes tip leaves to curl and twist. If this aphid is on your customers' apple trees they will cause the apple fruit to become distorted and will not developed fully. The damaged fruit will appear flattened over the next couple of weeks. The heavy rains are suppressing the activity of many of the natural predators that attack this aphid. If you examine tip growth of ornamental and fruit bearing cherries you may notice a black colored aphid that is also causing curling and twisting of tip growth of cherry trees this week. This is the black cherry aphid with is also very active this week.



Plum Curculio, *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, is Active This Week

The plum curculio, member of the snout weevil family Curculionidae, is damaging plum, apple, pears, apricots, cherry, quince this week. Females feed on the newly formed fruit and cut a crest-shaped hole in the fruit and then lay an egg into the fruit. This will cause a callus crest-shaped wound on fruit and result in premature drop of fruit in your customers' landscape in June.

Control: A timed spray of Imidan just about now will greatly reduce the damage on fruit. Imidan is labeled for fruit bearing trees.

Birch Leafminer and Hawthorn Leafminer

Common lilac is in bloom and this is the time that we generally see birch leafminer and hawthorn leafminer adult activity. The insects overwintered as pupae. The adults will be searching foliage and females will oviposit into foliage over the next couple of weeks. The eggs are laid through slits in the foliage. Your customers will see blotch mines form in the foliage in June. There are 3 - 4 generations per year.

Control: European birch is most susceptible to birch leafminer. Paper birch and gray birch are also susceptible. River birch can have the foliage damaged but it is usually a few leaves and the damage is very tolerable. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran can be applied to the soil of susceptible trees to protect foliage.

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.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

Holly Leafminers

American hollies are about 10 –14 days away from flowering. Adult holly leafminers emerge just about the time of flowering of American holly. Adults are gray to black colored flies. The adults are out for several days before they mate and females start laying eggs.

Control: Soil applications of imidacloprid (Merit in Landscape and Marathon in Nursery), thiamexthoxam (Flagship) applied as a soil drench or dinotefuran (Safari) applied as soil application gives very effective control.

Fireblight

We are receiving calls and pictures of fireblight on ornamental pears, apples, cotoneaster and Amelanchier. The rains this week spread the bacteria from infested twigs onto new sites on trees. One nursery in Harford County reports heavy damage on Amelanchier this season. Kevin Nickle, ProLawn Plus, brought in a callery pear sample from Timonium. If you are seeing fireblight symptoms on trees in your area, let us know so we can see how widespread the disease is this year.

Control: When foliage dries out prune off infested branches cutting several inches below the damage areas. It is recommended that you dip shears in alcohol between cuts to reduce chance of spreading the bacterial disease.



Emerald Ash Borer

I spoke with Dick Bean of MDA on May 13 to obtain an update on emergence of the emerald ash borer adults. Dick said that he is seeing emerald ash borers pupating in ash trees but they had not emerged as of May 13. He felt that they could start emerging in the next 5 - 7 days. Stay alert and look for the adult beetles. We will let you know when the first adults emerge in Prince George's County. If you find adults in your area notify MDA or your local Cooperative Extension office where you are finding adults emerging.



Adult emerald ash borer



D-shaped exit hole of emerald ash borer

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.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

Ambrosia Beetle

We are receiving reports that ambrosia beetles are also infesting birch and London plane trees in a Frederick County nursery. We will identify the species when we receive an insect sample.

Yucca Plant Bugs

Mark Adams, The Brickman Group, found plant bugs, *Halticotoma valida*, on yucca in Baltimore on May 6. The Yucca plant bug overwinters as eggs laid in the leaf tissue. Yucca bug is a Mirid insect that has a sucking mouthpart and causes stippling damage to yucca plants making foliage unattractive. The yucca plant bug has 3 generations per summer here in Maryland.

Monitoring: Look on the undersides of foliage for the small reddish color nymphs. They move fast, so it is best to look for them early in the morning.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Rich Anacker, The Davey Tree Experts, sent in this picture of newly installed pin oaks that had been completely defoliated by eastern tent caterpillars.



Leopard Moth Larva, *Zeuzera pyrina*

Mike Ragan, The Brickman Group, brought in a larva that he dug out of a London Plane tree. The larva is *Zeuzera pyrina*, Leopard moth. Mike is also finding it in crabapple. Leopard moths are opportunist borers that tend to infest weakened trees.



Mulberry Whitefly

Norm Brady, Bartlett Tree Experts, found mulberry whitefly on Holly 'Nellie Stevens' on May 9 on the Eastern Shore in Talbot County. Other hosts include mahonia, hackberry, mountain laurel, sweetgum, maple, dogwood, sycamore and mulberry. The photo shows the pupal stage which has the distinctive white fringe.



Control: Not necessary.

Potato Leafhoppers and Pear Blister Mite

Potato leafhoppers and pear blister mites are active in central Maryland this week.

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.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

Galls on Oaks, Maples and Birches

We are receiving samples and photos of various galls on trees this week. John Stuart sent in a photo of a wool sower gall on oak found in Chevy Chase. This gall arises from the oak twigs. It is caused by the cynipid wasp, *Callirhytis seminator*. Once the adult wasp emerges, the gall drops from the tree. Control is not necessary.



Brian Clark, Extension Educator, brought in a sample of maple with ocellate gall midge which causes the distinct “eyespot” on the foliage that has yellow and red rings around a darker center. Control is not necessary.



Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, and Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, reported small galls forming on the foliage of birch. When samples were examined, eriophyid mites were found within the galls. The blister-like damage is different from the rippled foliage caused by the spiny witchhazel gall aphid that is also active this time of year. These aphids are found on the underside of the birch foliage. Look for lady bird beetles and other predators that feed on these aphids.



Galls on birch



Eriophyid mites found in galls on birch



Damage on birch from spiny witchhazel gall aphid

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. 5

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

Maple Tip Borer

We received from Steve Black photos of a larva causing damage to maple tips. The damage usually occurs in the spring on new tip growth on maples that are 1 to 2 years old. Two lepidopterous species that we have seen on maples in previous years are *Episimus tyriu* and *Proteoteras aesculeana*.

Control: Prune out damaged branches.



Flagging on maple from tip borer



Larva found in maple stem

Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Blackseed plantain, *Plantago rugelii*, is a perennial weed found in many of our turfgrass settings throughout the United States. It will emerge as a basal rosette, looking very similar to broadleaf plantain, but can be distinguished by the color at the base of the petioles. Blackseed plantain will have a reddish or purple color at the base of the petiole, along with hairless leaves that will have a toothed and wavy margin tapering at the leaf tip. Broadleaf plantain will not have the reddish or purple petiole, and an untoothed margin and oval in shape. Blackseed plantain has fibrous roots emerging from the central taproot, flowers that are produced on stalks that are unbranched and arise from the rosette. These flower stems can be 10-15 inches long and will produce a 5 - 10 seeded capsule.

Control of blackseed plantain can be obtained in turf when adequate soil moisture and temperature are occurring. Many broadleaf herbicides handle this weed without any problem. These will include 2,4-D, but there are volatilization issues when temperatures get warm.



Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz

Attracting hummingbirds in the garden is as easy as planting the trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). This heavily flowered vine thrives in full sun and moist, well drained soils as long as it has a trellis, a fence, a pergola or even a Sheppard's hook to climb up. Trumpet honeysuckle produces bright red, tubular flowers with sunny yellow star



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.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.

openings. As the flowers mature the bright red softens to a dark pink. The vine itself is semi-evergreen in mild winters and as long as there is new growth the trumpet honeysuckle will flower all summer long. A native vine, the trumpet honeysuckle is vigorous, but not invasive and will attract both butterflies and hummingbirds. The flowers are slightly fragrant and in May and June will cover the vine completely. The foliage starts out almost clasping the stem and as the leaves mature, they develop petioles. Aphids, scale and the 4-lined plant bug are the common insect pests and powdery mildew and some fungal leaf spots appear but do little damage.

What's in Bloom

Plant	Plant Stage (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	Location
<i>Azalea</i> 'Martha Hitchcock'	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Diphylleia cymosa</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i>	First Bloom	Wheaton (5/14)
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Leucothoe catesbaei</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Lonicera</i> 'Blanche Sandman'	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Paeonia veitchii</i>	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Homebush'	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Klondyke'	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Marydel'	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron</i> P.J.M hybrid	First Bloom	Ellicott City (5/14)
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'Snow Bird'	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron flammeum</i>	First Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron nudiflorum</i>	Full Bloom	Silver Run
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	First Bloom	Clarksville (5/14)

Degree Day Information (as of May 15):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	380	Dulles Airport	397
Hagerstown, MD	330	Mechanicsville, MD	396
National Arboretum	451	Reagan National	553
Salisbury	416		



Stanton Gill



Chuck Schuster



Paula Shrewsbury



Ginny Rosenkranz



Karen Rane

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.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied.