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

September 12, 2008

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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)
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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.

Field Day for Nursery Managers - September 25, 2008
Mark you calendars and plan to attend the nursery field day "*Staying Profitable Through Sustainable Field Nursery Production Practices*" at Raemelton Farm. Raemelton Farm is a new nursery operation in Adamstown, Maryland. We will have information on trials that University of Maryland Extension Specialists have been conducting to benefit the green industry.

For a copy of the brochure, go to http://ipmnet.umd.edu/crses97.htm

The Rain is Welcome
In many parts of the state we received between 3 to 4" of rain on Saturday. This is a start to helping alleviate some of the damage from the drought but the rain down on so quickly that much of the water ran off.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid
Ed Boss noticed that hemlock wooly adelgid was starting to produce its white egg sacs in the Montgomery county area last week. We examined some hemlock wooly adelgids at CMREC and saw that they were just beginning to produce the white fluffy wax. No eggs were present yet. We should see crawlers sometime in September. We will keep you posted.

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.

What is Happening with Nursery and Greenhouse Pots?
We held a meeting last week for green industry representatives to discuss topics for winter conferences. One of the things that several landscape managers mentioned is that customers are asking what are you doing to be more "Green"? Anything made out of petroleum plastic is being looked at in a negative light. Many of the annuals and perennials that are sold in the industry are shipped in plastic pots. Several companies are developing pots made out of materials such as wheat, sugarcane, and corn. The wheat based pots can take temperatures up to 50 °C before they heat shift and look pretty promising. They last about 20 weeks before they start to break down. This would work for crops such as chrysanthemum that are 12 week crops. The wheat based pots are completely compostable in most home compost piles. These food based pots have been about twice as expensive as petroleum based plastic but this is rapidly changing and expect to see more competitive prices in the near future.

Interesting Recycling Ideas
The Carroll County landfill tried a very simple concept this year. They built a large metal building at the land fill that anyone in the county can place metal items. People visiting the landfill can re-use any of these dropped off items at their homes. People are taking in bikes, old silverware, chest of drawers and other household items that other people can take home and fix up and use in their home. This is an interesting way to encourage re-cycling of home products.

Tussock Moth Caterpillars
We are receiving several inquires about hairy caterpillars feeding on foliage of trees this week. Many of these caterpillars are tussock moths.
Control: The tussock moths are usually in relatively low numbers and the damage is minimal. Control is not necessary.


White-marked tussock moth caterpillar


Sycamore tussock moth caterpillar

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Wooly aphid

Grounds' managers from Mount St. Mary's College brought in pyracantha with heavy white wax on the stems from wooly aphid. The populations are very noticeable at this time of year. Wooly aphids are pretty easy to control with most contact chemicals including insecticidal soap, horticultural oils, and neem oil. The sample brought in had a syrphid fly larva consuming aphids. If enough of these predators are present on a plant and appear to be controlling the problem, it would be best to avoid any spraying at all and let the larvae clean up the problem.

Wooly aphids on pyracantha

Syrphid larva found feeding on sedum aphids

White Prunicola Scale, *Psuedaulacaspis prunicola*

A cherry laurel sample was submitted to our office this week that was covered with white prunicola scale. What really caught the eye of the landscape manager was the white male covers which are bright white at this time. This scale which has 3 generations per year had a crawler period back in mid-May. A second generation occurred in late July. At this point there is a third generation that is occurring. We found settled 1st instars and a few crawlers present this week.

Plants to examine for this scale: Cherry laurel, boxwood, magnolia, *Syringa*, *Osmanthus*, other *Prunus* species, and *Rhododendron*.

Control: A 1 % horticultural or neem oil could be applied now. Distance growth regulator is a good product to use. A soil application of dinotefuron (Safari) should control this scale.

White prunicola scale on cherry laurel

Close-up of a white prunicola scale crawler

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European Hornets
A Maryland nursery grower is reporting European hornets stripping bark on river birch. He decided that there were enough to warrant a permethrin application. The hornets do this damage at this time of year to create a nest. Usually, the damage is "sustainable" and the plants will survive.

Io moth
We found one of the stinging caterpillars, an Io moth larva, in a nursery in the Frederick area. The damage is not significant but be careful not to touch the stinging spines on the caterpillar's body.

Orangehumped Mapleworm, *Symmerista leucitys*
Steve Sullivan, The Brickman Group, called in reporting a group of caterpillars with longitudinal stripes and orange humps on the rear-end was defoliating a apple tree. The orangehumped mapleworm feeds mainly on red maple but has been reported feeding on American beech, basswood, birch, ironwood and apple. They feed gregariously and defoliate whole branches on trees. Most of the caterpillars are in later instars at this point and control is not necessary.

Photo from USDA Forest Service - Rocky Mountain Region Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Gall on Oak
Jason Kopp, The Norwood School, reported seeing more of these oak galls that we also saw last year. Dan Gilrein, Cornell University, responded to photos of the oaks and suspected that they are "growths from the twig, could be caused by *Adleria strobilana* (a gall wasp), which is reported on this host (Weld)."

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Weed of the Weeek, Chuck Schuster
Black Locust

Black Locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, is a perennial woody weed that can be found in many landscapes and turf settings. With the extended mowing interval caused by the dry weather, this weed has popped up in several manicured lawns recently. This woody weed is a fast grower and can reach tall heights in uncontrolled settings quickly. This plant has a fibrous root system and underground stems that will allow new plants to generate. Leaves are oval in outline, from one to two inches in total length, and up to .75 inches in width, and located alternately along the stem. It will have an odd number of leaflets along the stem. Young seedling plants will have stipules that are found at the base of the stems or leaf petioles. These stipules develop into the spines or thorn-like projections that may be up to one inch in length when they mature. The flowers produced by the black locust will help identify this species from other locust trees. The flowers will be fragrant, yellow or white in color, in a hanging raceme that will be four to eight inches in length, and contain many individual flowers. A fruit pod will develop that is twelve to eighteen inches in length, one half inch wide and twisted.

This is a woody weed that requires more than the standard weed control. In turf settings, mowing will stunt but not kill, causing it to produce multiple stems. 2, 4D products can be used in turf with success. Spot spraying with glyphosate materials while it is actively growing is useful in both turf and landscape settings, but use caution as it will destroy desired turf. For larger trees a basal bark treatment of Garlon 4 (triclopyr) has been effective. Attempt to control at the earliest possible time is best. The older and larger this woody plant gets, the harder it is to control.

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Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution

Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz

Caryopteris x cladonensis, sometimes known as blue mist spirea or fall spirea, is a hybrid between the *C. indica* and *C. mongholica* developed in England in the 1930's. Caryopteris are woody shrubs that bloom profusely on new wood. As a result, they are often pruned down to the ground each spring to encourage flowering. The plants do best in full sun with any type of soil as long as it is well drained, especially in the winter. The deciduous foliage is fragrant and slightly silver underneath, creating an attractive plant from spring to late fall. The flowers are sky blue to dark blue in color and wrap around the stem, creating a bottle brush look. 'Dark Knight' is the darkest of the flower colors and 'Longwood Blue' is the lightest. 'Worcester Gold' has yellow-gold foliage and blue flowers. There are no serious insect or disease pests, however butterflies and other pollinators are attracted to the plants when in full flower making Caryopteris a wonderful addition to any butterfly gardens.

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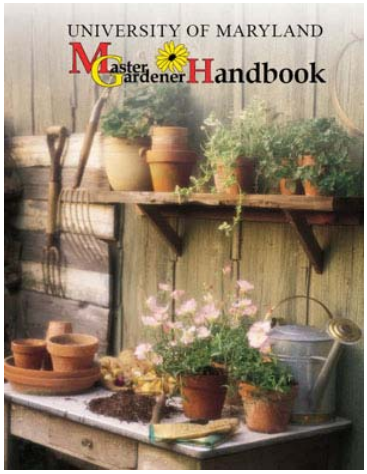
Photos of *Caryopteris* x *cladonensis* 'Dark Night' by Ginny Rosenkranz

Degree Day Information (as of September 11):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	3159	Dulles Airport	3150
Hagerstown, MD	2944	Mechanicsville, MD	2989
National Arboretum	3418	Reagan National	3775
Salisbury	3016		

New Master Gardener Handbooks Are Now Available



The new handbook is 640 pages and includes 400 color photos. All material has been completely revised and updated. There are now 28 chapters, including 9 new chapters (e.g. ecology, weeds, invasive species, alternatives to turf, landscape design, water quality and conservation).

The cost is $69 and includes shipping and handling. Mail your order form and check made payable to the University of Maryland to Robin Hessey at the Home and Garden Information Center at 12005 Homewood Road Ellicott City, MD 21042. Order forms can be found on the HGIC website at: http://mastergardener.umd.edu/Handbook.cfm.
For more information contact Robin Hessey at 410-531-1754.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Chuck Schuster


Paula Shrewsbury


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Karen Rane

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