



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

September 19, 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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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 your 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>

Boxelder Bugs in the Landscape

Several landscape managers are reporting that the nymphs of boxelder bugs are being found in planting beds and areas around the bases of buildings in September. At a local cut flower operation there was a large number of boxelder bugs on the landscape fabric mulch of a new planting area. Many of the nymphs are feeding on the seed pods of boxelder that have dropped into mulch beds. In a few weeks customers will notice that adult boxelder bugs are trying to get inside their buildings. Adults that make it into a house should be vacuumed up and removed. It really is not necessary to spray for these casual invaders since they do not bite or carry any disease.



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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Cherry Trees Defoliating

It has been a tough year for cherry trees. Many of the cherry trees in landscapes have had lots of yellowing foliage over the last 9 weeks from the very dry conditions. The winds and heavy rains last week have knocked a lot of foliage off of the cherry trees. I visited a site this week in where every cherry lining a driveway was 90 - 95% defoliated. When cherry trees defoliate this early in the season they reduce their winter hardiness. If we have a cold winter this year, expect to see dying branches on cherries in 2009. Also, weakened cherry trees are often attacked by peachtree borer. The adult peachtree borer has been flying from late June and is just finishing up flight activity in mid-September. The larvae bore into the trunk, usually at the trunk flair. Infested cherry trees will produce large amounts of sap that will gel on the trunk.

Weed Control

Hopefully most of you have applied your fall pre-emergent herbicides at this point to control fall weed germination. The rains that have shown up should help activate the pre-emergent herbicides.

Boxwood Leafminer, *Monarthopalpus flavus*

Boxwood plants seem to be seeing a major resurgence in popularity in the landscape and nursery. Boxwood leafminer has moved into the common pest category with the heavy planting of boxwood plants in landscapes. The boxwood leafminer was accidentally introduced into the United States from Europe. American boxwood is usually heavily damaged from this pest but some of the hybrid boxwood are also attacked. The English boxwood is not generally damaged by leafminers since it produces an alkaloid toxin that kills larvae. Lynn Batdorf of the National Arboretum mentioned in a phone conversation that if American boxwood is growing near English boxwood and the leafminers reach high levels on the American boxwood then adult females will oviposit into the English boxwood foliage but the larvae usually die or perform poorly. In 2008, we are noticing that the damage on American boxwood and hybrids is very visible in September. The undersides of the infested foliage will have bubbled areas and there is a noticeable yellow spotting and browning occurring as the larvae feed between the leaf surfaces. It may be an influence of the summer drought but the damage on the foliage is becoming much more noticeable much earlier in the year. Usually we don't see this level of injury showing up until winter.



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Control: Dinotefuron (Safari) appears to be rapidly uptaken by boxwood and provides control in a couple of weeks when applied as soil drench. Eustachio and Raupp (2001 – J of Arboriculture) published results of a trial on boxwood leafminer evaluating several systemic insecticides. They found that abamectin (Avid) and Acephate (Orthene) were ineffective when applied in summer for boxwood leafminer control. They also found that acetamiprid (TriStar) applied as a foliar spray gave good levels of control.

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Blister Beetles

Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts, sent in this picture of an interesting beetle that was active in Carroll County. The beetles are called black blister beetles, *Epicauta pennsylvanica*. These beetles were in swarms on native plants, *Pachysandra procumbens* and *Hepatica acutiloba* and were notching the foliage. We have had reports from cut flower growers of blister beetles feeding en masse on cut flowers such as zinnias and lisianthus. They can be found feeding on a wide range of ornamental plants. They also feed on legumes. Adult blister beetles usually occur in small groups or swarms. Their bodies contain a toxin (cantharadin) that can cause blisters to form on the skin. Animals, particularly horses, that ingest beetle contaminated feed become extremely ill and may die. Handling blister beetles can cause blisters on the skin as a reaction to cantharadin. Care should be taken to not handle them. The larval stages feed on grasshopper eggs and are predaceous on several ground living insects. The larval stage is considered to be beneficial.



Bark Aphid on Siberian Elm

Brian Dahl noted that he has noticed large numbers of bark aphids on Siberian elm trees in mid-September. He said he saw the activity last year during this same time period. The grayish colored aphids cluster in groups on the trunk. Damage to trees is very minimal and control is not necessary. Large populations of ladybugs and syrphid flies were active at the site that Brian pointed out to me to examine and biocontrols appear to be progressing nicely.



Giant bark aphid – Photo by Herbert A. "Joe" Pase III, Texas Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Spruce Spider Mite

We are finding nymphs and adults of spruce spider mite in the areas of Rockville, Germantown, Westminster and Annapolis this week on Alberta spruce. Monitor plants by placing a white paper on a clip board and rap the branch over the white paper to see the spider mites.

Control: Horticultural oil (do not use this on blue spruce or it will take out the color), Avid, Floramite, Akari, Forbid



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***Fusarium* in Landscape Beds**

Pansy plants that had collapsed in the landscape were brought into the office last week. The plants had collapsed and rotted right at the soil level. This looked like *Rhizoctonia* symptoms at first glance. We ran a serological test kit on the sample and it was negative for *Rhizoctonia*. David Clement, plant pathologist at HGIC, made slide mounts of the sample and found *Fusarium*. The landscape manager mentioned that he had lost annual vinca, petunia and now pansy in this planting bed. Once a disease is in a planting bed it does not go away and susceptible plants can become infected.

Oak Slug Sawflies

Marty Adams brought in a European butternut with oak slug sawflies feeding on the foliage. Also on the sample were two interesting looking slug caterpillars – one a button slug caterpillar and the other was a skiff moth caterpillar.

Monitoring: Look on the foliage for slug sawfly larvae that are slimy, have shorter legs and more than five pairs of prolegs.

Control: Usually not necessary to control this sawfly but Conserve would kill the caterpillars if control is needed. The caterpillars are not usually found in significant numbers to warrant control.



A button slug caterpillar



Skiff moth caterpillar

Velvet Ants

Norm Brady, Bartlett Tree Experts, is finding velvet ants (which resemble ants, but are more closely related to bees and wasps) on the Eastern Shore this week. Females can sting if bothered, but are usually not a problem. These insects parasitize bees and wasps.

Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



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Praying Mantids Are Very Active

Many landscape managers are reporting seeing a lot of activity of praying mantid this month. The females are large and most have mated at this point. The female will start laying egg masses on branches of landscape plants over the next couple of weeks. Many landscape managers say that the female mantid likes to lay egg masses on Leyland cypress branches. This is great since there are so many Leyland cypress around in the landscapes.

Beneficial of the Week-The Mantis, Preying or Praying - Brian Clark



Chinese mantis
attracted to lights
by Brian Clark

Mantids are predators that are now becoming more visible as the winged adults are attracted to lights. They can be quite large (4-5 inches). The praying (or preying) portion of their name is often interchanged due to the fact they are highly predatory and for their typical "prayer-like" stance. In Europe, the name "praying mantis" refers to only a single species, *Mantis religiosa*, although it is called the European mantis in the United States. Mantises are exclusively predatory and their diet usually consists primarily of insects or other small animals captured through ambush techniques.

Sexual cannibalism occurs in roughly one quarter of all intersexual encounters. After mating, the female lays between 10 and 400 eggs deposited in a frothy mass called an ootheca. Depending on the species, these can be attached to a flat surface, wrapped around a plant, or even deposited in the ground. The eggs are often preyed upon, especially by several species of parasitic wasps.

About 20 species are native to the United States, including the Carolina mantis. Two species, the Chinese mantis and the European Mantis, were deliberately introduced to serve as pest control for agriculture, and have since naturalized. All three are fairly common in this area. It is legal to keep native mantises as pets or to sell egg cases for gardening; non-native species are illegal to possess and release in the U.S., under the Non Native Invasive Species Act of 1992.

Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Campsis radicans, commonly called trumpet vine, trumpet creeper or cow-itch, is an aggressively growing woody vine that is native to the southeastern United States. This woody perennial vine is a popular woody ornamental vine, but can become invasive in many settings. This woody vine has a taproot and will root from the stem when they come in contact with the soil. Growing to forty feet in height, they can be found in gardens and on arbors, but will also be found on sides of homes and utility poles attaching themselves with large numbers of tendrils or aerial roots. The orange trumpet shaped flower with a yellow center will be found on a woody stem that can grow several centimeters in diameter. Leaves will be opposite and will be made up of several leaflets that are pinnately compound. A



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single leaf may contain from seven to fifteen leaflets that will be from one half inch wide and up to three inches in length. Leaves are coarsely toothed. Hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers.

Aggressive pruning is one method of control of this vine. Even if you want to keep it, pruning does not seem to harm it. It can be found in turf, growing prostrate to the ground, or climbing in landscape settings. Triclopyr can be used to control this woody vine, but use caution around the desirable plants in the area. In turf, some of the post emergent broadleaf herbicides have been shown to give control; this group will include 2, 4D.

Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz

Taxus baccata ‘Repandens’ is a dwarf weeping form of the English yew. The foliage is always a dark, rich and shiny green, making it an outstanding plant for spring, summer, fall and winter garden interest. Hardy in zone 5 to 7, like most yews the weeping English yew needs to have well drained soils or the plant will turn yellow and die within a year. Easily trimmed, the weeping English yew can grow to 2-6 feet tall and 12-15 feet across.



Although the plants prefer the shady areas, they can handle sunlight and either acidic or alkaline soils. Weeping English yews can be used in foundation plantings and small hedges. The foliage and bark are very poisonous if eaten, so they should never be planted near any livestock. Mealybug, weevils, scale and yew gall midges are insects that can attack the yews while cankers and *Phytophthora* root rot can cause death.

Degree Day Information (as of September 18):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	3294	Dulles Airport	3289
Hagerstown, MD	3081	Mechanicsville, MD	3130
National Arboretum	3583	Reagan National	3937
Salisbury	3160		

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 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.



Stanton Gill



Chuck Schuster



Paula Shrewsbury



Ginny Rosenkranz



Karen Rane

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