



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

**September 26, 2008**

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

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**Regular Contributors:**

**Pest and Beneficial Insect Information:** Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialists) and Brian Clark (Extension Educator, Prince George's County)

**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](mailto:Sklick@umd.edu) or call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413.

**Boxwood**

We had a landscape management company owner call about a planting of 60 English boxwoods that were established in 2007 with a trickle irrigation system installed. We had them run a soil test and test for presence of nematodes in the root zone. The pH was a little low at 6.4. We like to see this level close to pH 7.0. The nematode level was just fine. We called on Lynn Batdorf of the National Arboretum to help us figure this one out. Lynn said most of the problem starts at the nursery when they push the slow growing English boxwood along with water and fertilizer and create a dense thick plant that looks attractive but is very susceptible to two diseases: *Macrophoma* and *Volutella*. Lynn felt that the problem can be solved by correct pruning at the nursery. Also once the plants are established in the landscape they should be pruned to maintain an open growth habit that allows air to circulate around the foliage. We asked Lynn to suggest the correct pruning technique for boxwoods in nurseries and landscapes. We hope to include his comments in one of the October issues.

**Fireblight Management**

When we get to the later part of October it will be time to think about pruning out the cankered branches that were damaged by fireblight this last spring. The best time to do the pruning is when the plants go into dormancy, cutting at least 8" below any cankered areas on the branches.

*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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## Sooty Blotch and Fly Speck on Your Customers Apples

With the high food prices a number of landscape managers reported that their customers were planting more fruit trees, including apple trees. Two summer diseases that are twins (one almost always shows up with the other) that present an aesthetic problem in fall are sooty blotch and flyspeck. These two dirty looking diseases make apples look totally “crappy” and something most people would not want to eat. Sooty blotch and fly speck pop up on fruit in late summer



to early fall and feed on the wax that covers most apples. Both fungi make the fruit look awful but the fruit is actually still usable. How can you help you customer prevent this problem next year? Organic growers in New York State report if you apply horticultural oil to the fruit in August and early September, about a month before harvest, that control of these two diseases is good. I have applied a strobilurin fungicide such as Pristine in mid-August that works very well in controlling these two diseases. What can you tell them to do at this time of year? Both fungi are just on the surface of the apple so you can use a slightly abrasive sponge to brush off the sooty blotch and flyspeck. Next season you can help them prevent these problems by action in August.

## Banded Ash Clearwing Borer

Steve Sullivan sent this picture of banded ash clearwing borer pupal cases this week. The adults are out and flying. If you are trying to protect a white or green ash from banded ash clearwing then apply Astro or Onyx to the trunk in the next week or so.



## Red Flat Bark Beetle

Marty Adams, Barlett Tree Experts, brought in a very unusual bright red beetle that was almost flat in profile. I (Stanton) did not recognize it so we sent a picture to John Davidson and he identified it as the red flat bark beetle, *Cucujus clavipes*. Marty found it near the trunk of a tree struck by lightning. It is reported that this flat beetle is found under the bark of ash and poplar trees. It is listed in the literature as being predominantly predaceous on other arthropods.



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## Flying Ants

Citrus or lemon ant activity is being reported by several landscape managers. The winged forms are out this week with activity highest just after a rain storm. The rain last week was just enough to make these ants active. The ants are reddish brown and when crushed have a citrus or lemon odor. The winged forms (alates) are out in the fall and fly about the landscape looking for a mate. They are harmless and control is not necessary but your customer may think they have termites. You can show them that the ants have a pinched waist and the forewings are longer than the hind wings. Also, crush one and you will smell the citrus odor. Winged (alate) termites are usually out in April and May and the forewing and hindwing are equal length. The Latin name for the order that termites are in is “Isoptera” which means equal winged.

## False Florida Red Scale

Norm Brady, Bartlett Tree Experts, sent an interesting scale that he found on the Eastern Shore. Norm found an armored scale called the false Florida red scale, *Chrysomphalus bifasciculatus*, on holly plants. The female of this scale is round, brown and normally found on foliage. Females overwinter and lay eggs in May. They hatch in late May to June. The second generation occurs in late July through August. This scale does overwinter here in Maryland but is mainly found on the Eastern Shore.



## Japanese Knotweed

Rob Orndorff, City of Rockville, sent us this photo of what he suspected could be a knotweed. It is Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, which is an invasive species from Asia.

**Control:** Cut stems and immediately treat with Glyphosate or Garlon. It is very difficult to control.



## Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Common Ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, is a summer annual found in most areas of the United States. It is of great interest to many of us as the pollen is a common cause of “hay fever” for many. Pollen from Ragweed can reportedly travel up to 400 miles. While typically found in more rural areas including farm pastures, roadside ditches and waste areas, it will also be found in many landscape beds, and turf areas.

This summer annual can grow from several inches in height to more than 6 feet in total height. The plant has a shallow taproot, leaves that show hairs on the upper surface. Male and female flowers are found in separate heads on the same plant. Female flowers are in the upper leaves and bases of leaves, while the male flowers are found at the top of the plant. Pollen production stops as temperatures drop below 60 °F.

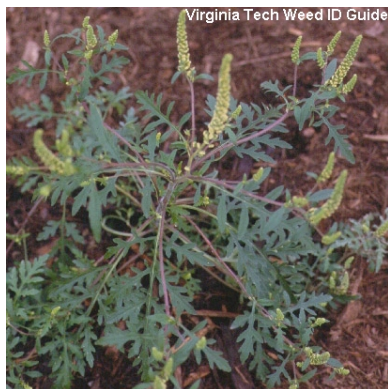
Control of common ragweed can be obtained with post emergent use of glyphosate products, but broadleaf pre emergent materials may not give the desired control, as timing of

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germination often comes after pre emergent products are less effective. Use of broadleaf weed post emergent materials including 2,4-D have provided adequate control for turf settings,

**Ragweed can be confused with a perennial plant that is flowering at the same time of the year: Goldenrod.** Goldenrod with its large clusters of small yellow flowers is similar to common ragweed, but it is not the source of many of our allergic hay fever problems. These flowers will appear from the end of summer until frost.



**Common Ragweed**



**Goldenrod**

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

*Aster novi-belgii*, New York aster, is a native herbaceous perennial that is hardy from zone 4-8. It will bloom from the late summer into the fall with hundreds of tiny star shaped daisy-like flowers with blue, lavender or pink petals and yellow centers. Although many of the cultivars can grow 2-3 feet tall, *Aster novi-belgii* that fit into landscapes best seem to be the dwarf varieties that only grow about one foot tall. New York Aster 'Wood's Purple' grow to a height of 8-12 inches tall without needing to be staked, pruned or shaped during the earlier growing season. The soil should be rich and moist but well drained especially in the winter months. Once well established the New York asters can handle some drought although the bloom time will be diminished. Like many herbaceous perennials, the New York aster prefers to be divided every 4-5 years to maintain health. Powdery mildew and rust are the two most common diseases and the plants should have good air circulation to help prevent infection. Aphids are the most common insect pest and rabbits can trim them before their time. **Photo by Ginny Rosenkranz**



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## Degree Day Information (as of September 25):

|                     |      |                    |      |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Baltimore, MD (BWI) | 3401 | Dulles Airport     | 3390 |
| Hagerstown, MD      | 3162 | Mechanicsville, MD | 3207 |
| National Arboretum  | 3689 | Reagan National    | 4081 |
| Salisbury           | 3262 |                    |      |

### 2008 Chesapeake Green Energy Conference

November 11, 2008 from 7:30-4:30  
at the Howard County Fairgrounds

For registration information go to:  
[www.mnlaonline.org](http://www.mnlaonline.org) or call 410-823-8684

### Program to Teach Professionals How to Create and Manage Backyard Woodlots

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension in cooperation with Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Penn State School of Forestry will conduct a program designed to educate green industry professionals about managing backyard forests. “*Landscapes and Backyard Woodlots: Business Opportunities for the Green Industry*” will take place Thursday, November 11 in Gettysburg, PA at the Adams County Cooperative Extension office. PDA and MDA pesticide credits, as well as ISA credits will be awarded to licensed applicators. Topics will include: principles of forest & wildlife management, establishment and maintenance of small tree plantations, creating natural areas through, natural succession, invasive species control, recreational trails, wildlife habitat improvement, forest health improvements, merchandizing trees, and much more.



Cost of the program is \$75 by November 4 and \$95 thereafter. The registration fee covers lunch, program materials, *The Woods in Your Backyard* workbook and CD (NRAES -184), and break snacks. Pre-registration is required. A brochure with registration information is available at <http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/PDFs/Landscapes%20and%20Backyard%20Woodlots%20.pdf>. For additional information, please contact Steve Bogash at 717-263-9226 or [smb13@psu.edu](mailto:smb13@psu.edu).

**New Master Gardener Handbooks Are Now Available:** The new 640 page handbook includes 400 color photos. All material has been completely revised and updated. 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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