



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

**August 7, 2009**

**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 (Technician, 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.

**MDA Update from Ed Crow**

Ed Crow sent us an email concerning the outcome of the legislation pertaining to the Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting Bills (House Bill 929 and Senate Bill 917) that was submitted last year. Neither Bill made it out of committee. It is their understanding that similar legislation will be introduced this coming legislative session.

**Hit List of Top Nursery Pests**

Last week I (Stanton) travelled down to Ashville, North Carolina to speak at a Southern Nursery and Extension Specialist conference. There were nursery owners and Extension specialists from Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina at this two-day meeting. The group met to discuss emerging insect, disease and weed problems for southern nursery owners. It was a great chance for growers to give input into what they see as the major pests attacking their crops. I thought it would be useful to look at what pest problems they are having since so much of the plant material grown in the south is shipped into our landscape market.

**Here are some of the top insect and mite problems:**

The **number one** insect group that is causing major problems in the south is armored and soft scale. Gloomy scale, white prunicola scale and obscure scale were listed as their top armored scale problems. Calico and lecanium scale were the top two soft scale problems.

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**White Prunicola Scale:** Steve Sullivan brought in a sample of cherry laurel heavily infested with white prunicola scale. There are three generations per year in Maryland for this scale. (May, July-August, September) For control, Distance with 1% oil can be used when crawlers (salmon-colored) are active.



The **second biggest problem insect** was ambrosia beetles. The biggest problem with this pest is some years it causes major loss and then in other years it does not. They know ambrosia beetles consistently attacks styrax, dogwoods and crape myrtles but in some years it attacks a much wider range of plants. **This is very consistent with what we are observing here in Maryland.**

The **third biggest problem insect** is flatheaded apple tree borer. Some of the Extension specialists commented that there is actually a complex of about 10 species of borers closely related to flatheaded apple tree borer attacking nursery trees. Red maple appears to be the major host of these borer problems.

The **fourth biggest insect problem is rather alarming – it is fire ants.** Growers in the south are finding that they frequently have to treat plant material for fire ants before shipment. The most common material they are using for treatment is Talstar drenches.

The **fifth biggest problem is spider mites.** Hot, dry summers for the last 4 years is causing major problems with spider mites which thrive in hot weather.

#### **How about diseases?**

The **number one disease group is powdery mildew.** Several growers are finding powdery mildew on a wide range of plant material but the number one plant host appears to be dogwoods. The photo shows the start of powdery mildew found on zinnia foliage this week.



The disease group voted as **number two is downy mildew.** The weather in 2009 has been perfect for downy mildews to infest a wide range of plants.

The **third most threatening disease is phytophthora.** Grower reported serious problems with root rots and stem cankers.

#### **Marestail Weed in Nurseries and Landscapes**

David Schell, BASF, sent an e-mail commenting on our report of problems in controlling marestail using glyphosate. David says that BASF has a product called Freehand 1.75 granule that contains 1% pendimethalin and .75% dimethenamide. David report this works well for summer applications to prevent seed germination of marestail.



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### Hibiscus Sawfly

Steve Sullivan, The Brickman Group, brought in a sample of hibiscus with heavy feeding damage from hibiscus sawfly larvae. The later instar larvae cause shot hole damage and can skeletonize the foliage. If you see shot hole damage, look for the green larvae with black spines on the undersides of the foliage.

**Control:** A spinosad product such as Conserve will control sawflies.



### Boxwood Leafminer

We examined boxwood foliage this week and found early instar larvae hatched and actively feeding. These early instar larvae cause small yellow spots on the foliage.

**Control:** If you plan to apply imidacloprid, Safari or Flagship this is the time to apply.



**Yellow spots on foliage can indicate the presence of boxwood leafminer larvae in the foliage**



**Boxwood larvae exposed within the leaf  
Photo by Sarah Kenney**

### Honeybee Swarm

We are conducting trials at Raemelton Farm and while we were there on Tuesday Steve Black asked us to look at cluster of bees in a walnut tree on his farm. I climbed the tree for a better look and it was the biggest honeybee cluster I have ever seen outdoors. It was over 18" in width and 24" tall. I called Lee Hellman who ran the University of Maryland Apiary for several years and described the large bee cluster to him. I have seen honey bee colonies split off but the cluster is usually about the size of a football. This was much larger than most clusters. Lee explained that when a colony splits off with a new queen they will often temporarily stop on a plant for a couple of days. If the weather turns foul they stay longer. If the queen starts laying eggs then the colony remains in place and builds a comb which is exactly what this colony was doing. He said the colony will probably remain the rest of the season and the colony will likely die during the winter. We will have to see if we can find a bee keeper interested in harvesting this colony.



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## Spangle Gall

Anthony Judge sent us this photo of spangle gall on oak. This cup-shaped gall is caused by a cynipid wasp.

**Control:** No control is necessary.



## Fungi Found in Mulch This Week

**Stinkhorn Fungus:** Steve Sullivan brought in a sample of stinkhorn fungus which is a smelly fungus that is sometimes found coming up in mulch in landscapes. The strong odor attracts flies and ants which help spread the fungal spores. They often range in color from orange to pink. Fruiting structures are columnar in shape or globular, lattice-like in shape. Most of this fungus remains underground. It helps break down wood. Fungi can be removed the 'egg' structure before it ruptures and reducing the use of wood mulch minimize the spread of this fungus.



**Mushroom Pics from Mark Schlossberg:** Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, sent us this photo of mushrooms heavily infesting a mulched area.



## Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Dallisgrass, *Paspalum dilatatum*, is a perennial grass found growing in clumps in turf, and occasionally landscapes. Introduced from South America, this weed can be found throughout the United States with the exception of our higher elevations. The leaf blades have hairs near the collars. Leaves are rolled in the bud and have a membranous ligule, will not have an auricle, and will be from four to twelve inches in length. Dallisgrass can tolerate mowing and in unmanaged settings will grow to five feet in height. The root system is fibrous with a short rhizome, which helps distinguish it from other clumping grasses. The seedhead is found on a terminal stalk with a raceme having two to ten drooping spikelets, each having two rows of egg shaped seeds along the entire length. Seeds will be pale green to purplish in color. Dallisgrass produces a large amount of seed that can be spread by mowers, wind and animals. Seeds will germinate when soil temperatures reach 60 - 65 °F. It also likes moist areas.

Control of dallisgrass can be challenging. For golf courses and sod farms Tenacity works well. MSMA works but requires repeat applications and needs large quantities of carrier (water). Often found mixed with other products, this will control many of the weeds found in turf. In landscape and nursery spot applications with glyphosate products can be successful. Caution should be used when applying glyphosate this late in the season other than for spot spraying. **Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech Weed ID**



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## What's in Bloom

Plant	Plant Stage (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	Location
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Bud	August 7

## Upcoming Programs

### September 16, 2009 LCA 2009 Practical Diagnostic Techniques for Landscape Managers

Location: Dave & Busters, White Flint Mall (top level)

Go to <http://www.lcamddcva.org/conferences/monthly.cfm> for the announcement

### October 2, 2009 Sustainable Nursery Field Day

Location: D.R. Snell Nursery, Uniontown, MD (not the garden center in Mt. Airy)

Topics and registration information will be available later in the month.

### Degree Day Information (as of August 6):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	2227
Dulles Airport	2353
Frostburg, MD	1349
Martinsburg, WV	2065
Mechanicsville, MD	2169
National Arboretum	2855
Reagan National	2477
Salisbury	2358



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