



Greenhouse TPM/IPM Bi-Weekly Report
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Central Maryland Research and Education Center

From: Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist – IPM for Greenhouse and Nurseries, CMREC, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Karen Rane, Extension Specialist, Director of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Suzanne Klick, Technician, CMREC, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension

October 2, 2009

Chrysanthemums

It was a slow start for chrysanthemum sales in early September but sales appear to have picked up over the last week. The cool summer induced many mums to bloom early and we have seen some of the shortest mums in many years in the marketplace. There may be a shortage of mums in bloom as we progress through October.

Poinsettia

Well, if it was not great growing conditions for mums it has been pretty good weather for growing poinsettias. I visited 4 or 5 greenhouses in the last week and the poinsettia crops this fall are looking good. Most growers have only made one application of Cycocel at this point. Height control is looking good at most operations.

Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*



Brown marmorated stink bug nymph



Brown marmorated stink bug adult

The bug of conversation in the last few weeks is the marmorated stink bug. Tom Musser in Frederick called this week to say they are everywhere in Montgomery and Frederick Counties and his customers are upset. Kevin Nickle, Prolawn Plus, Inc., called to report they are very active in Baltimore County. Tom Wheeler called to report their activity in the Mt. Airy area. The Home and Garden Information Center had 40 – 50 calls in just one morning last Thursday. We

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Maryland Cooperative Extension is implied. Read labels carefully before applying any pesticides. Photographs are by Suzanne Klick, Stanton Gill and Shannon Wadkins unless stated otherwise.

have had additional calls and emails from landscape and garden centers managers reporting stink bug activity in many locations in Western and Central Maryland. We have not received any calls on stink bug activity from people on the Eastern Shore or Southern Maryland. They have probably not spread this far yet but they are well established in Central and Western Maryland. In Washington County Debby Smith-Fiola reports they were covering pepper plants in gardens. They do feed on plants but at this time of year they are mainly a nuisance pest. The adults are looking for warm places to hang out for the winter and houses and other buildings are candidates for overwintering sites. We had one greenhouse in Frederick County report they were showing up in the greenhouse structure this week.

This true bug in the insect family Pentatomidae is known as an agricultural pest in its native range of China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. It becomes a nuisance pest both indoors and out when it is attracted to the outside of houses on warm fall days in search of protected, overwintering sites. It occasionally reappears during warmer sunny periods throughout the winter, and again as it emerges in the spring.

What You Can Tell People To Do Before Bugs Enter a Building:

Mechanical exclusion is the best method to keep stink bugs from entering homes and buildings. Cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes, behind chimneys, and underneath the wood fascia and other openings should be sealed with good quality silicone or silicone-latex caulk. Damaged screens on doors and windows should be repaired or replaced.

Exterior applications of insecticides may offer some relief from infestations where the task of completely sealing the exterior is difficult or impossible. Applications should consist of a synthetic pyrethroid (i.e. deltamethrin, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, cypermethrin, sumithrin or tralomethrin) and should be applied by a licensed pest control operator in the fall just prior to bug congregation. Unfortunately, because insecticides are broken down by sunlight, the residual effect of the material will be greatly decreased and may not kill the insects much beyond several days or a week.

How About After Stink Bugs Have Entered the Structure?

If numerous bugs are entering the living areas of the home, attempt to locate the openings where the insects gain access. Typically, stink bugs will emerge from cracks under or behind baseboards, around window and door trim, and around exhaust fans or lights in ceilings. Seal these openings with caulk or other suitable materials to prevent the insects from crawling out. Both live and dead stink bugs can be removed from interior areas with the aid of a vacuum cleaner. It is not advisable to use an insecticide inside after the insects have gained access to the wall voids or attic areas. Although insecticidal dust treatments to these voids may kill hundreds of bugs, there is the possibility that carpet beetles will feed on the dead stink bugs and subsequently attack woolens, stored dry goods or other natural products in the home. Although aerosol-type pyrethrum foggers will kill stink bugs that have amassed on ceilings and walls in living areas, it will not prevent more of the insects from emerging shortly after the room is aerated. For this reason use of these materials is not considered a good solution to long-term management of the problem. Spray insecticides, directed into cracks and crevices, will not prevent the bugs from emerging and is not a viable or recommended treatment.

Comment on Plectranthus

In response to information in the September 18th report, Claire Porterfield, MNCPPC, sent an email to let us know that mealybug can be a problem on Plectranthus.

Salvia - A Hallucinogenic?

An article in The Washington Post mentioned that *Salvia divinorum* has attracted the attention of young people across the United States. *Salvia divinorum* is not the same as the salvia that greenhouse growers have been selling as a flowering bedding plant or herb. *S. divinorum* is creating a stir because the foliage contains salvinorin that can be dried and smoked to provide a short-lived hallucinogenic trip. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has labeled salvia a drug of concern. You may find that young customers are suddenly interested in salvia this spring, even though the salvia that greenhouses are growing is the not the salvia that they are really interested in.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

October 10, 2009
University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Open House
Central Maryland Research and Education Center, 4240 Folly Quarter
Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
<http://www.agnropenhouse.umd.edu/OpenHouseCMREC.cfm>

October 6, 2009

Greenhouse Profitability Seminar

Location: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA

Contact: Joyce Latimer at 540-231-7906 or jlatime@vt.edu

<http://www.hort.vt.edu/Floriculture/VFGA/October%206bothreg1.pdf>

December 10, 2009

Chesapeake Green Energy Conference

Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

February 3 and 4, 2009

2010 Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium

Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD

Contact: MNLA, 410-823-8684

February 16 – 19, 2009

Cut Flower Short Course

Location: BARC Facility, Beltsville, MD

Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

March 4, 2009

Greenhouse Conference

Location: Chesapeake Community College, Easton, MD

Contact: Shannon Dill, 410-822-1244