



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

**October 30, 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.

**Happy Halloween!**

**Multi-Colored Asian Ladybugs Active**

Several landscape managers are reporting that multi-colored Asian ladybugs are entering customers' home in late October. There appears to be a healthy population of ladybugs trying to overwinter in houses this fall. Use a shop vac to vacuum them up and remove them from the house. Take them out to another location and release them.



**Fireblight**

In 2009, it was a banner year for fireblight on ornamental pears and crabapples. The wet weather was just perfect for the spread of this disease. Now that fall is upon us it is a good time to prune out the damaged wood on your customers' trees. Make sure that you cut well below the damage, cankered area on the trees. Dipping your pruning shears in alcohol is a good sanitation practice so you are less likely to spread the disease from one cut surface to another.

*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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## Fall Tree Fertilization

Many landscapers and arborists are fertilizing trees in the fall while the roots are still actively pulling up nutrients. We have a fact sheet on tree fertilization which you can get on-line at <http://ipmnet.umd.edu/topics.htm>.

## Cottony Cushion Scale

We received a sample of *Magnolia virginiana* from Washington D.C. that had a heavy infestation of cottony cushion scale with active crawlers. This soft scale is found on a wide range of woody and herbaceous plants. In 2008, we had reports of cottony cushion scale on elm, nandina and *Ilex glabra*. This scale was not believed to be winter hardy in this area, but there are indications that with the milder climate the scale is now being found on outdoor plant material in some areas.



**Monitoring:** The large elongated, white egg sacs are the most obvious feature to monitor for this scale. This soft scale causes plants to yellow and stems to dieback. Sooty mold is often found growing on the honeydew secreted from this scale.

**Control:** The IGR Distance applied now should control crawlers.

## Holly Looper, *Thysanopyga intractata* (family Geometridae)

Damian Varga, Scientific Plant Service, reported that he saw holly looper damage earlier in October on American hollies in Anne Arundel County. This caterpillar is active in June and July.

**Monitoring:** The larva is light green and looks like a fall cankerworm. The larva has one pair of anal prolegs and one pair abdominal prolegs.

**Control:** Not at this time.

## Grass Carrying Wasp

Here is a curious one. Chuck Schuster sent in clumps of grass with wasp larvae present. He reported that a homeowner found these grass clumps on their window shutters. There were a couple of larvae and pupae present. I placed a pupa in a rearing chamber and the adult emerged. The wasp is black with an abdomen on a thin pedicel (thread-like). The wings are smokey, and reddish to brown. The wasp is *Isodontia mexicana*, in the family Sphecidae. The wasp is commonly called a grass-carrying wasp. The wasp had accumulated the grass into a clump on the shutters and created a little nest. These wasps are an interesting insect that shows up in the fall. There is no need for alarm or any need to take action.



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## Weed of the Week, Chuck Schuster

Long-stalked phyllanthus, *Phyllanthus tenellus*, is a perennial weed moving into our landscape and turf settings. This weed has been a weed found mostly in nurseries and greenhouses and has been spreading through movement of these ornamental plants. Mostly found to the south of Maryland, it is now appearing in many new areas as plant materials are shipped each year to meet the landscape market.

Long-stalked phyllanthus is an erect perennial growing to eighteen inches in height. It germinates in the landscape as temperatures get warm and when the soil is moist. The leaves are alternately arranged on a central stem in two rows. Leaves are elliptical to oval in shape, having no petiole, and with a slight projecting tip at the apex. Stems are erect and both leaves and stems are without hairs. Flowers are small, white to green, and grow on a flower stalk that starts from the area between the leaflet and the central axis of the leaf. The fruit of this plant will be round, green, and may hang below the leaves.

Control of this weed starts with the removal of it from all containers prior to planting in the landscape. Evaluate the plants prior to placement. Once established it becomes harder to control. It is resistant to many of the commonly used pre emergent herbicides including Preen, Surflan and Barricade. The seeds of long-stalked phyllanthus are very small so the appropriate use of mulch will help prevent this from germinating. Large nugget mulch allows the seed to stay dry and not have the sunlight needed to germinate. Post emergent materials that are successful include diquat, glufosinate and glyphosate. Again consider cultural controls first.

**Photo from Virginia Tech Weed Guide**



## Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkantz

Crabapple (*Malus* sp.) is often thought of as a small to medium tree, 15-30 feet tall, with 4 seasons of interest. For many of the varieties this is correct. In the early spring the plants are covered with either single or double flowers in pure white, pale pink or red before the foliage emerges. The summer foliage can range from light green to dark green, again depending on the variety of crabapple. In the fall the foliage is usually yellow, but the crabapple fruit can be yellow, yellow with a red cheek, gold, pumpkin orange, rose red, red, dark red, purplish red, maroon, or pink. Some of the newest cultivars like 'Bridal Bouquet' purposely have no or very little fruit. The fruit can be shiny, bright or have a matte finish. In the winter the branching provides an attractive silhouette, usually an upright fan shape or rounded with dense branching. With all those wonderful attributes the crabapple is still not the favorite small tree of choice because of all the diseases and insect pests associated with them. Fireblight is a bacterial disease that affects many cultivars, while cedar apple rust, apple scab, powdery mildew and trunk cankers are fungal diseases that can defoliate or deform trees. Many types of scale, borers, aphids and the Japanese beetle also damage the trees. Rather than give up on the crabapple, search out the cultivars that can work in the landscape. *Malus* 'Adirondack' has red buds that emerge into large waxy white flowers with a red tinge, red to orange red fruit that persists into December and is resistant to scab, fireblight, rust and mildew. *Malus* 'Donald Wyman' has red buds that open to single pinkish white flowers,

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glossy bright red fruit that persists into the winter and is only slightly susceptible to mildew and scab. *Malus Sugar Tyme*<sup>™</sup> has pale pink buds that open to pure sugar white fragrant flowers, abundant red fruit and is very resistant to scab and Japanese beetles.

**Photos by Ginny Rosenkranz**



**Survey**

We will be sending out an electronic survey next week. We ask for your input to determine whether it is worth continuing the electronic weekly reports in 2010. Hopefully these reports are useful to you in your work.

**Degree Day Information (as of October 29):**

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	3585
Dulles Airport	3831
Frostburg, MD	2214
Martinsburg, WV	3297
National Arboretum	4436
Reagan National	4097
Salisbury	3800

**Montgomery College Landscape Technology Program - NEW Tree Climbing Course**

Coming in Spring 2010, a new course will be offered; LN 150 Applied Arboriculture. Held during spring break 2010 (March 15 – 19), it is a week-long, hands-on course (one credit, all lab) that will focus on how to ascend and descend safely in large trees. Steve Nagey from Davey Trees is the tentative instructor. Each class will have one or more members from the Maryland Arborist Association serving as teaching assistants. This course has been submitted to ISA for continuing education credits. For more information contact Steve Dubik at 240-567-7803, [steve.dubik@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:steve.dubik@montgomerycollege.edu)

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## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

### **December 10, 2009**

Chesapeake Green Energy Conference  
Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD  
Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

### **December 18, 2009**

Pest Management Recertification Conference  
Location: Montgomery College, Germantown, MD  
Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

### **January 4 and 5, 2010**

Maryland Turfgrass Conference and Tradeshow  
Location: Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland College Park Campus  
Contact: Michelle LoConte, 301-990-0196

### **January 4 – 8, 2010**

Landscape IPM Short Course  
Location: College Park, MD  
Contact: Avis Koeiman, 301-405-3919

### **January 6 – 8, 2010**

MANTS  
Location: Baltimore Convention Center  
Contact: 800-431-0066

### **January 20 – 21, 2010**

Maryland Arborist Association Winter Seminar  
Location: Turf Valley, Ellicott City, MD  
Contact: MAA, 888-638-7337

### **January 20 -21, 2010**

PGMS Green Industry Professional Seminar  
Location: Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, VA  
Contact: Mary Bean, 703-250-1369

### **January 27, 2010**

FALCAN Conference  
Location: Frederick County Fairgrounds (Null Building), Frederick, MD  
Contact: Dan Felice, 301-252-2116

### **February 3 and 4, 2010**

2010 Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium  
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD  
Contact: MNLA, 410-823-8684

### **February 10, 2010**

Eastern Shore Pest Recertification Conference  
Location: The Fountains, Salisbury, MD  
Contact: Ginny Rosenkranz, 410-749-6141

### **February 16 – 19, 2010**

Cut Flower Short Course  
Location: BARC Facility, Beltsville, MD  
Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

### **February 25, 2010**

LCA Winter Workshop  
Location: National 4H Conference, Chevy Chase, MD  
Contact: LCA, 301-948-0810

### **February 27, 2010 (Saturday)**

Maryland Christmas Tree Association Winter Meeting  
Location: Friendly Farms, Upperco, MD.  
Contact: Marian Thomas, 410-374-9538

### **March 4, 2010**

Greenhouse Conference  
Location: Chesapeake Community College, Easton, MD  
Contact: Shannon Dill, 410-822-1244



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