



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

September 11, 2009

Coordinator of the electronic weekly IPM report:

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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)

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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.

Harlequin Bugs

We are seeing feeding activity of harlequin bugs on cleome and snapdragons in landscapes. In the nursery the harlequin bugs are found feeding on ornamental cabbage and kale plants that nursery managers are growing for fall sales.

Control: Acephate, synthetic pyrethroids such as Astro or Talstar.



**Newly hatched harlequin bug nymphs
and a few eggs**



Harlequin bug adult

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Honeylocust Mite

We received a report from John Shorb Landscape Company of honeylocust mite activity in the Washington, D.C. area this week.

Control: Avid, Sanmite, Floramite, horticultural oil

Oriental Beetle Larvae Damaging Armeria (Sea Foam)

Mark Schlossberg of ProLawn Plus, Inc., sent in larvae of oriental beetle feeding at the base of sea foam plants this week.

Control: Imidacloprid in soil for grubs.

Harvestmen – Very Active This Week

Daddy longlegs or harvestmen are very active harvesting insects this September. There are many misconceptions about these predators. One urban legend is that daddy longlegs are the most poisonous spider in the world, only its fangs are too small to bite a human, and thus are not actually dangerous. First off, harvestmen are not spiders. They are in the class Arachnida, order Opiliones. The difference between Opiliones and spider is that spiders have two distinct body parts while Opiliones have the two main body parts (the prosoma and opisthosoma) nearly joined, so they appear to be one oval structure. The other thing is that when the legs are removed they twitch. When you were a child you might have removed a leg or two off a daddy longlegs and watched the leg twitch about. The legs twitch because there are structures in the legs called a pacemaker, located in the femur. These pacemakers send signals via the nerves in the muscles to extend the leg and it relaxes between signals. The removed leg can twitch for several minutes after removal. This twitching of legs is hypothesized to be a means to keep the attention of predators while the Opiliones makes its escape. Contrary to some people's belief a new leg does not grow back. These harvestmen are excellent predators so have your customers leave them alone.



***Zamopsyche commentella* on Ginkgo**

The picture we put in last week's IPM report on *Zamopsyche commentella* on red maple and zelkova caught the attention of Nathan Birx of Bartlett Tree Experts. Nathan sent in this picture of this same insect on the trunk of ginkgo trees on the Eastern Shore.



Light Bulbs on the Way out

In the United States the incandescent light bulb will stop being manufactured and sold in 2012. They stopped the production in Europe this summer. The German people are now hoarding incandescent light bulbs. Rather silly since the incandescent bulbs use 5 times the amount of electricity as fluorescent bulbs. Be prepared for the coming change over to fluorescent and LED lights for your nursery and Landscape business.

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Forage Radish: For improving growth of trees in nurseries

Forage radish, also called tillage radishes, is from Daikon radish, which is a traditional Japanese radish. Daikon radishes have been grown for human consumption for a very long time but are being used more and more for natural weed control. The tillage radish is extremely competitive and will outgrow most other weeds. The seed rate is 1 lb per 4000 ft² and is seeded in September or October. The seed germinates very quickly and light green foliage will expand to cover about 12 – 18” of soil surface. The radish that is produced is huge. It is several inches in diameter and will grow several feet into the soil profile. I (Stanton) have been playing with forage radish at my farm for the last two years. I plant it at the base of fruit trees and blueberry plants where I usually have problems controlling weeds. So far it is working fairly well. It competes with most weeds except Canadian thistle which still manages to thrive even in thick plant of forage radish. In December the plants die down and the root will die over the winter. As the large root dies it leaves an excellent column of organic material in the soil and adds nitrogen back to the soil as it decomposes.

If you attend the October 2 Sustainable Nursery Field Day at D.R. Snell Nursery, Inc. you can learn more about the trials the University of Maryland is conducting on the tillage radish in nursery plantings. Do a web search for Daikon radish or tillage radish and you will find seed sources. I bought my seed from Groff seed in Holtwood, PA

Beneficial of the Week

Mile-a-Minute Weevil, by Brian Clark

Mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is an invasive plant of forests and landscapes. It is an annual weed with the ability to grow nearly 20 feet in a single season and produce over 2000 seeds per plant. With its aggressive growth and sharp spines, it can rapidly cover existing vegetation.



The Maryland Department of Agriculture has released the host specific, mile-a-minute weevil (*Rhinocominus latipes*) in limited areas in Maryland to control this aggressive weed pest. The weevil is small and black, with the typical weevil snout. Adult weevils eat small holes in young leaves of the mile-a-minute vine. Larvae also feed on the plant, boring into the stem. This activity, when timed right, can greatly reduce plant vigor and the amount of seeds produced by this plant.

For photos of the weevil and additional information:

University of Delaware - <http://ag.udel.edu/enwc/research/biocontrol/mileamminute.htm>

2008 New Jersey report - <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/mileamminute.pdf>

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Weed of the Week

Ladysthumb, *Polygonum persicaria*, is a summer annual that will be found in many landscapes and nursery settings throughout the United States. It prefers wetter locations, growing to three feet in height, but can spread laterally in many settings. Leaves will be alternately arranged on the stem, lanceolate to elliptical in basic outline, and up to six inches in length and one and one quarter inch in width. The leaves will taper to a short petiole which will have an ocrea which will go around the stem. Leaves sometimes have a purple spot in the middle of the leaves in the shape of a lady's thumb, explaining how this weed was named. Roots will be fibrous with a shallow taproot, flowers can be very light pink to white in color and will be found at the end of a terminal spike on the ends of stems. The fruit will be a black achene. The stems will be reddish in color and will have enlargements at the nodes. The thin sheath (ocrea) that surrounds the stem at each leaf petiole will have stiff hairs projecting from the top and these will be less than three thirty-seconds of an inch long. While similar to Pennsylvania smartweed, ladysthumb has hairs on the ocrea that Pennsylvania smartweed does not.

Control of this weed can be achieved in landscape settings using pre emergent materials including oryzalin (Surflan), isoxaben with trifluralin (Snapshot), and isoxaben (Gallery). In turf setting most 2,4D products will control. In nursery rows post emergent use of glyphosate can be used but continue to remember care needs to be used to prevent sucker contact and or trunk contact. Pre emergent products are less potentially damaging to the desired species.

Photo from Virginia Tech Weed Guide



Plant of the Week, Ginny Rosenkranz

Panicum virgatum (Switch grass) is a native grass that started out in the tall grass prairies. Cultivars like 'Northwind' have been brought into the landscape as ornamentals. *Panicum virgatum* is very tolerant of many soil types from sand to heavy clay and once established can tolerate droughts and for short periods of time, very wet soils. Switch grass is also tolerant of salt air and winds, making it an exceptional plant for along salted roadways and the coastal areas. *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind' prefers to grow in full sun to partial shade, growing 4-5 feet tall with a spread of 2-3 feet and it is able to grow in Zone 2-9. 'Northwind' has wide, thick leaf blades in an olive green color and it grows in a very strong upright silhouette. In September 'Northwind' begins to bloom and produce seed heads that are held above the foliage. The fall color is a golden yellow that softens to a tan throughout the winter. *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind' should be planted as an accent plant or in groups of 3-5, placed as a background plant in the back of the perennial bed or used as a low hedge. Like all grasses, the 'Northwind' should be cut back to the



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ground in the early spring to allow the sun to warm up the soils and promote a good flush of new growth. **Photo of 'Northwind' by Ginny Rosenkranz**

Degree Day Information (as of September 10):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	3086
Dulles Airport	3267
Frostburg, MD	1949
Martinsburg, WV	2852
Mechanicsville, MD	(not available)
National Arboretum	3827
Reagan National	3442
Salisbury	3229

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 - Mark your Calendars to attend this Field Day organized by University of Maryland Extension and the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association.

Growers will get a chance to see University of Maryland field research to help improve nursery production. We have invited Matt Taylor from Longwood Gardens to talk about some of the innovative and sustainable practices that Longwood Gardens is using in its nursery and landscape areas. We also have invited Jeff Derr to speak on new innovations in weed control. Rick Snell and his staff will give a tour of his progressive nursery in Frederick County.

The schedule with registration form is available at <http://www.ipmnet.umd.edu/09Oct02C.pdf>.

We look forward to seeing you at the field day.



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Chuck Schuster



Paula Shrewsbury



Ginny Rosenkranz



Karen Rane
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