

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

May 27, 2016

Issue 10

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

EUONYMUS SCALE: The first generation of orangish crawlers have already started to hatch from eggs and are approaching peak crawler activity at 569 GDD₅₀ (range 139 - 1267 GDD₅₀). The second generation of crawler activity typically occurs from 1351 - 2371 [1848 peak] GDD₅₀. Now is a good time to scout for this pest so management efforts are on target for maximum efficacy.

This armored scale is most commonly found feeding on *Euonymus*, but may also be found on *Pachysandra*, *Ficus*, *Buxus*, *Ilex*, *Camellia*, and others. They remove plant juices from the plant as they feed causing yellow or brown spots. Infestations may cause leaf abscission and eventually kill branches. Male scales are white, elongated, appear fuzzy, and often found on leaves; whereas female scales are brown oval-shaped and often found on twigs. The second generation females mature and overwinter to the following spring.

Parasitoids, lady beetles and other predatory beetles are natural enemies of euonymus scale. Some studies have found *Euonymus japonica* and *E. fortunei* suffer heavier infestations than other *Euonymus* species. Some research has suggested variegated varieties may also enhance scale fecundity and performance compared to non-variegated varieties, thus more likely to suffer heavy infestations. Products available for control include horticulture oil, insecticidal soap, Distance (pyriproxyfen), Safari (dinotefuran), Orthene (acephate), Sevin (carbaryl), DeltaGuard

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

TURF GRASS DISEASES have been noticeable this spring. Foliar diseases on turf appear at certain times of year or under certain environmental or cultural conditions. Powdery mildew was found on turf last fall when weather conditions were warm and turf grew long and lush. Powdery mildew is common on Kentucky bluegrass in areas with shade and where moisture and humidity are high. Mow and discard clipping if possible. Prune bushes that overhang grassy areas to increase air circulation over the affected turf. We have seen rust on turf this spring too, with rusty colored lesions on blades, and fungal spores that turn your shoes a rusty color! Once conditions dry out a bit, the rust fungi will dissipate, and chemical control is usually not necessary. Red thread is a turf disease we always see in the spring, characterized by red growth of the causal fungus, including macroscopic "threads" in turf grass, usually stressed or nutrient imbalanced turf. A soil test

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What's Hot!

Rose rosette disease is visible on many roses now in the landscape, especially on Knock Out cultivars. Knock Out roses are more resistant to many plant diseases, but are not immune. Prune or remove affected plants.

Insects (Continued)

T&O (deltamethrin) and other pyrethroids. Talus and Safari both provided greater than 90% control of euonymus scale in a trial we conducted. The next efficacious products were Distance and horticultural oil at about 73% control. The research was conducted on nursery-grown euonymus (*E. fortunei*) in the entomology greenhouse.



Euonymus scale. Photo credit: United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

For more information

on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

View more pictures at <http://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/>

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

may help determine what fertilizer to apply this fall, as fertilizer is usually not necessary in the summer months. As weather warms, we will probably see more brown patch, especially in fescue lawns. Brown patch caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia*, is favored by warm weather, especially overnight temperatures and high nitrogen. Fertilize, mow, and water properly, and avoid water late in the day. Professional lawn care applicators have access to preventative fungicides for control of turf diseases in high value or extreme disease situations.

POWDERY MILDEW ON DOGWOOD was observed this week, along with spot anthracnose. Powdery mildew will cause distortion of new leaves and reddening of foliage. Fungicides can help to manage on trees with a history of powdery mildew. Spot anthracnose symptoms include small discrete spots on foliage and bracts. Spot anthracnose is favored by wet weather, but usually requires no control.



Red thread on turf. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF May 24, 2016

- Swarthmore College
(Delaware County, PA) = 430 ('15 = 587)
- Fischer Greenhouse
(New Castle County) = 392 ('15 = NA)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown
(Sussex County) = 469 ('15 = NA)