

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

May 26, 2017

Issue 10

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

PERIODIC CICADAS are flying in our area? What? Yes, there are reports of periodic cicadas flying in New Castle County and they may be found further south. I found one warming itself on the sidewalk last Friday. There are a couple thoughts as to why we are finding them now.

The most common theory is they are part of a larger brood. Periodic cicadas spend either 13 or 17 years developing in the soil, feeding on plant roots. Some think these may be part of Brood VI and are stragglers to our area. There is historical evidence of Brood VI in Delaware. Another possible explanation is they are from Brood V and are emerging later than the majority of Brood V, which emerged last year. Periodic cicadas may also undergo an unusual development phenomenon called an acceleration. A group of a particular brood develops faster and emerges sooner than conspecifics. Brood X is our next large emergence of periodic cicadas and is due in 2021. Some think this could be a group of Brood X cicadas exhibiting this acceleration behavior. The numbers suspected to emerge this year are low in comparison to a normal year of periodic cicada emergence (millions of cicadas). These cicadas are also not the cicadas we often hear singing later in the summer; therefore, they are a bonus. These insects will help provide food for foraging birds this spring. Treatments for periodic cicadas often involve netting young trees or possibly a pyrethroid application if populations are extensive; however, neither are necessary for the quantity of cicadas we should expect for this year.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PLANTS are being developed that have increased disease and pest resistance. Although not edible, GE or GMO flowers and plants are still controversial and breeders need to go through proper registration and approval. Several new varieties of **petunia** were found to be genetically engineered to produce hues of orange, red, and purple flowers. Reports indicate that release of the varieties was unintentional, a company commercialized the petunia without following the petition process. Petunias are annual, ornamental non-invasive plants, not for consumption, and pose no risk to human health or the environment in the U.S. Plants are being removed from distribution, but USDA may be petitioned to change this status to non-regulated to allow future importation and movement in trade. Genetically modified plants result in improved crops, and educational efforts can help consumers learn benefits versus risks and the regulations USDA imposes.

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Sycamores have started dropping a few leaves due to sycamore anthracnose (noted in Old College on the UD campus). If we get more cool, wet weather, the defoliation might increase. This is rarely a problem for trees as sycamore will releaf once the weather dries and warms.

Fire ants have been found in ornamental tropical plants in Sussex County, DE. Shipment of plants across state lines requires inspection certificates <http://news.delaware.gov/2017/05/22/care-is-urged-after-red-imported-fire-ants-found-in-palm-tree-shipment/>



Imported red fire ants. Photo credit: W Cranshaw, Colorado State Univ., Bugwood.org.

For more information

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

Helpful numbers to know:



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

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

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Diseases (Continued)

CROWN GALL ON EUONYMUS *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (bacterium). Creeping euonymus, rose, willow, and poplar are very susceptible. This bacterium produces tumor-like growths on plant crowns, branches, and roots. The bacteria may come in with the plants, or be in the soil for years. Remove and destroy severely affected plants. Galled parts can be pruned off; disinfect tools frequently when pruning. Avoid replanting susceptible plants in areas where infected plants have been. The bacterium enters through wounds and can persist in the soil for years. Commercial biological control species of *Agrobacterium* may help manage on specimen plants. Sycamore anthracnose is causing severe defoliation throughout the region. Frogeye leaf spot is very evident on some maples at this time. No control is necessary for either of these fungal leaf diseases, trees will produce a second flush of leaves.



Crown gall on Euonymus. Photo credit: N. Gregory.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF May 23, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 512 ('16 = 430)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 528 ('16 = 392)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 670 ('16 = 469)



Periodic Cicada. Photo credit: Jon Yuschock