



ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

June 10, 2016

Issue 12

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

Earlier this spring, the *Pulvinaria* scales produced their ovisacs, and yesterday *P. floccifera* crawlers were observed moving on the underside of leaves. We have three common cottony scales which include: cottony maple scale, cottony maple leaf scale and cottony camellia/taxus scale. To identify the species simply identify the host plant.

Cottony camellia/taxus scale (*Pulvinaria floccifera*) is the most commonly reported *Pulvinaria* soft scale. In the early spring, this small oval tan scale produces copious amounts of honeydew. It is frequently found on hollies, sweet box, *Hydrangea*, *Rhododendron*, *Cephalotaxus*, and its namesake hosts. After the female lays her eggs in the cottony mass, she dries up - leaving only the cottony egg mass on the leaf. Crawler activity occurs over a wide time period: 145 - 1365 (830 peak) GDD₅₀.

Cottony maple scale (*Pulvinaria innumerabilis*) favor silver maple and hickory, however they also may be found on other plants such as red maple, other maples, dogwood, birch, elm and willow. The crawlers are active from 462 - 2362 (1388 peak) GDD₅₀. The adults and eggs are almost always found on stems and branches, with crawlers settling on leaves for the summer until they migrate back to the stems to overwinter as female scales. Egg masses may contain greater than 1,000 eggs.

Cottony maple leaf scale (*Pulvinaria acericola*) occurs on many plants, but is most often observed on maples, dogwoods, black gum, and *Pieris*. Adults and egg masses are found all over the plant, but usually on the leaves. This is the least common of the three species.

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

ANTHRACNOSE? What does the term "anthracnose" really mean? The dictionary says anthracnose is any of numerous plant diseases caused by fungi and characterized by necrotic lesions. The term is from the Latin or Greek, *anthrak* or *anthrax* meaning dark, coal, or carbuncle, combined with *nosos* meaning disease. Plant pathologists refer to anthracnose as disease characterized by dark spreading spots on leaves, twigs, or fruits, often irregular and bounded by leaf veins. Spots darken with time, and may appear sunken. Anthracnose is a general term for a "type disease", which can affect plants in many different Families, such as cucurbits, legumes, cereals, tree fruits, and hardwood trees. Anthracnose diseases are common when weather is damp and can affect plants at various growth stages. Anthracnose-causing

(Continued)

What's Hot!

May was a very wet month with 7 inches of rain in most areas around the state. Root problems may be exacerbated.

Loss on second year leaves on holly should be complete and trees should be looking green.

We recently received a tree specimen in the Diagnostic Clinic that had been injected for Phytophthora and treated for an insect infestation. It had marginal leaf burn and the homeowner was worried about losing this specimen tree. We are not sure if the tree has Phytophthora, and there were aphids and flatid planthoppers present, but not responsible for the marginal burn. A late freeze as leaves were unfurling was probably responsible for the leaf damage, and the tree is beginning to produce new leaves. This example shows, it is important to try to accurately diagnose before you treat a tree for disease or insect problems. Pesticide treatments may place unnecessary chemicals into the environment, and may actually contribute to stress on a tree you are trying to save.

Insects (Continued)

Many predators and parasites feed on these scales and control them. Treatments targeting crawlers are most efficacious. Horticultural oil, insect growth regulators (Distance or Talus), neonicotinoids, insecticidal soap, abamectin, and pyrethroids are options.

For more information

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

Helpful numbers to know:



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://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/	

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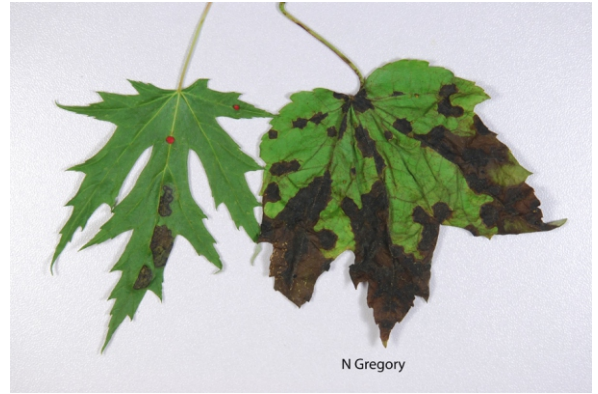
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Diseases (Continued)

fungal pathogens are often in the genus *Colletotrichum*, *Gnomonia*, *Apiognomonia*, and *Discula*. The fungi overwinter in buds and twigs, and other plant debris. Sanitation, clean seed, good air circulation and dry foliage and fruits, are management tools. Fungicides are not usually necessary.

SLIME MOLDS ON TURFGRASS have been showing up. Slime molds are related to fungi, and common lawn slime molds include *Physarum* spp. and *Fuligo* spp. Dark blue-gray-to-black crusty material forms on the leaves and stems of grass, in a circular pattern on the lawn after a rainy period. Soot-type material rubs off easily on shoes and clothing. Slime molds feed on decaying organic matter splashed upon the leaves and stems, and cause no damage to the turf, but are more common on heavily thatched or poorly drained portions of a lawn. Slime molds will dry to a dormant and minimal spore state, or can be removed by brushing with a broom or a rake. The yellow "dog-vomit" slime mold often appears in mulched beds, and is also not a plant pathogen. Fungicide applications are ineffective and unnecessary.



Anthracnose on maple. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**

AS OF June 6, 2016

- Swarthmore College
(Delaware County, PA) = 756 ('15 = NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse
(New Castle County) = 739 ('15 = 818)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown
(Sussex County) = 814 ('15 = 864)



Cottony maple scale close up. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Cottony camellia scale close up. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Sycamore anthracnose. Photo credit: N. Gregory