

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 21

INSECTS

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

WHITE GRUBS: We have sufficient soil moisture for scarab eggs to hatch thus becoming white grubs. There are many scarabs in our area that contribute to the white grub complex found feeding on turfgrass roots or among roots of woody plants. Scout areas with historical records of previous grub populations. We are too late for a preventative application. Preventative insecticide applications should be made between mid-June to mid-July for the best efficacy, and include products such as chlorantraniliprole or imidacloprid. Chlorantraniliprole may be applied as early as mid-May and still achieve excellent control of white grubs.

Large populations of Japanese beetle were not as widespread as recent years, but were more localized. The white grub complex is made up of many other species of scarabs besides Japanese beetles and includes masked chafers, green June Beetles, oriental beetles, and *Phyllophaga* spp. The damage they cause usually appears in early to mid-August during dry summers.

Sample untreated turfgrass or nursery containers to determine if a curative treatment is warranted. Sample sunny locations, irrigated turf appearing drought-stressed, turf with grub history, and locations with high adult activity. A knife, shovel, or standard golf cup-cutter can be used to sample a square foot of turf. White grubs are found at the soil-thatch interface and 8-10 grubs or more per square foot warrant treatment.

White grubs are attacked by predators, parasitoids, entomopathogenic nematodes, and other entomopathogens. Products other than preventative ones include: the combination products Aloft and Allectus, or traditional rescue products such as Dylox and Sevin. Imidacloprid and other neonicotinoids are also frequently used as a curative product with some success if applied before mid-September.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

BROWN PATCH is showing up in turfgrass lawns now. Brown patch caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia* is problematic as we get into very warm weather with warm temperatures overnight. Brown patch symptoms include irregular circular patches that are brown or tan in color and appear flattened. Individual lesions on blades are tan with a darker border. Fescues, bluegrass, rye and bentgrass are all susceptible, although there are a few resistant varieties available. Avoid water late in the day, which can be

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Peony with blotch leaf spot should be pruned now that bloom has finished.

Powdery mildew is noticeable on crape myrtle and will result in reduced bloom.



White grub damage. Photo credit: Ward Upham, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org



Brown patch on turfgrass. Photo credit: R. Mulrooney,

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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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

difficult with afternoon thunderstorms. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizer after early spring applications. *Rhizoctonia* will not kill the crown and roots, but can cause severe dieback in foliage. The turf should come back when conditions improve for growth of cool season turf grasses. Fungicide control may be necessary on high value sites, with rotation of chemistries to avoid resistance development. We are still seeing some *Pythium* on turf in poor drainage areas.

IMPATIENS DOWN MILDEW has been confirmed in the area, on both *I. walleriana* and *I. balsamina*. Symptoms begin as chlorosis (yellowing) and a downward curling of leaves. Chlorotic spots are more localized on balsam and leaves do not drop as they do on *I. walleriana*. Remove affected plants. It is thought that the pathogen survives on seed or in debris in soil, so removal of affected plants is best. Fungicide sprays and drenches are effective, but will need to be applied every 7 days. Current research indicates that a three year rotation out of impatiens will be enough to avoid repeated disease.



Impatiens downy mildew. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF August 9, 2016

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2334 ('15 = 2414)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2203 ('15 = 2428)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2441 ('15 = 2525)



White grubs. Photo credit: University of Georgia Entomology, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org