

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

August 26, 2016

Issue 23

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

LATE SEASON SCALES: Armored scale do not produce honeydew as they feed and the two described below either have crawlers active now or will in the next few weeks.

WHITE PRUNICOLA SCALE: This armored scale feeds on a number of hosts including: *Acer*, *Alunus*, *Aucuba*, *Buxus*, *Forsythia*, *Ilex*, *Ligustrum*, *Malus*, *Prunus*, *Rhododendron*, *Syringa*, and others. Crawlers of the second generation are active at 2314 - 3586 [3010 peak] GDD. This insect is often confused with white peach scale and is a serious pest on *Prunus*. Male scales are elongate, felted, white and light yellow at one end; whereas females are round with light yellow slightly off center. Scales are usually on bark and fruits, although occasionally found on leaves. This and white peach scale should be easy to locate in the landscape because the males will cover stems, branches or trunk and have a felt-like or scaly white appearance.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE is an armored scale with two generations here in mid-Atlantic region and the second is active from 2109-3297 [2627 peak] GDD₅₀. This scale feeds on pines, yew, Douglas fir, *Cryptomeria*, spruces, and white cedars. The feeding damage causes a chlorosis on needles, distortion of new growth, and stunting. The damage often appears as yellow bands or spots on the needles.

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

BACTERIAL LEAF SCORCH (BLS) can be seen, most notably on mature red oaks in our area. BLS of hardwood trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, is caused by the bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa*. The xylem limited bacterium is carried by small insects such as leaf hoppers, sharpshooters, and spittlebugs. BLS has been especially damaging to oak trees in the red oak group in Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic states since the early 1990's. Northern red oak and pin oaks widely planted in residential neighborhoods and city streetscapes are under environmental stress, making them more susceptible. Symptoms include marginal discoloration or scorch of leaves, in late summer or early fall. Marginal discoloration is often accompanied by presence of a yellow band toward the inside of the discolored area. Symptoms are similar to those caused by drought or root issues that interfere with water and nutrient flow. Plants may not develop symptoms for a year or two after infection, but eventually thinning of branches occurs and trees die within 5 to 8 years. Environmental factors can predispose trees to infection and spread of the bacteria within trees. Infection is confirmed with a lab test, so if needed, please arrange to have samples tested by contacting the Clinic. Management

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What's Hot!

Black walnut trees are losing leaves due to anthracnose. Keep an eye out for the walnut twig beetle and Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD).

Scoliid wasps flying over turf are a non-aggressive parasitoid.

Fall webworm nests are easily seen in roadside trees.

Continue to scout for tuliptree/magnolia scale crawlers.

Insects (Continued)

Natural enemies such as lady beetles, green lacewings, and parasitoids help keep scale populations low. Possible treatment options include; horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, Distance, Talus, Tristar, Safari, Flagship or one of the pyrethroids are products available.



Cryptomeria scale damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

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)

includes maintaining good tree vigor, and removal of infected trees. See the UD fact sheet for more info:

<http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/bacterial-leaf-scorch/>

CHICKEN OF THE WOODS or the sulphur shelf fungus (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) has been seen at the base of trees with large bright yellow and orange overlapping fruiting structures, some of the most colorful and identifiable fungi found on living or dead trees. *Laetiporus* is a choice edible, but must be positively identified by an expert. It is one of many fungal species that attack the heartwood of trees, and produce fruiting bodies on the trunk. *Laetiporus* is common in oak trees, as many of these Basidiomycetes are found in association with certain trees. If one tree has heart rot, it doesn't mean that nearby trees will get it, even if they are of the same species. The fungus must enter through a wound in order to become established, and the fungus will slowly decompose the heartwood, the dead wood or center of the tree. By the time a fruiting body is produced on the trunk of a living tree, it usually means that the fungus has been there

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Diseases (Continued)

for years. At this point there is no control but to keep tree stress low. Rotting of the interior wood can weaken the tree, leading to breakage, insect invasion, and other diseases. An arborist may be able to prune to save the tree.



Laetiporus sulphureus fruiting body. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF August 23, 2016

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = NA ('15 = NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2768 ('15 = 2772)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2864 ('15 = 2869)



White prunicola scale infestation on holly. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Bacterial leaf scorch on red oak. Photo credit: N. Gregory