Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

Some insects were delayed in development compared to the past couple of years, even with plenty of rain and average temps. Common pests you may see while scouting this week include:

JAPANESE MAPLE SCALE second generation crawlers should be active on plants now (2220 – 3037 GDD_{50}), and an application of horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or one of the insect growth regulators (Talus or Distance) can provide control or apply dormant oil after plants go dormant for the season.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE is an armored scale with two generations here and the second is active from 2109- 3297 [2627 peak] GDD_{50}. This scale feeds on pines, yew, Douglas fir, *Cryptomeria*, spruces, and white cedars. The feeding damage causes needle chlorosis, distortion of new growth, and stunting. The damage often appears as yellow bands or spots on the needles.

Both scale species are attacked by a variety of predators and parasitoids, but chemical control may be needed. Efficacy trials with a new product conducted this summer and fall should be ready to share next year. Insect growth regulators such as Talus or Distance, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, neonicotinoids, or pyrethroids (may impact beneficial arthropods) can be used to manage populations.

FALL WEBWORMS have been seen on various hosts along roadsides. Manage by tearing open the webbing, removing the webbing with a stick, or pruning out the encased section of foliage. Chemical control is seldom warranted.

SCOLIID WASPS are blue-black wasps with a rust colored abdomen and two yellow spots. They are found flying over turfgrass or feeding on nectar from flowers. They are a beneficial wasp that parasitizes white grubs (green June beetle specifically).

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

POWDERY MILDEW ON FLOWERING DOGWOOD has been severe this season. It has also been a problem on many ornamental shrubs, including lilac, crape myrtle, and trees such as oak, perennials such as *Monarda* (bee balm) and phlox, and annuals such as zinnia. Powdery mildew fungi are specific in the plants that they infect, so one that causes disease on zinnia, will not affect dogwood and so on. Powdery mildew is named for the white powdery appearance due to sporulation of the fungus on the top surface of leaves. Powdery mildew can be found on the lower leaf surface sometimes, and symptoms may begin with

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What's Hot!

Foliar nematodes have been active on perennials such as peony, anemone, and hosta. Trim out affected foliage.

Some native seed mixes planted to foster habitats for honeybees and other pollinators are contaminated with Palmer amaranth. Palmer amaranth has become commonplace in agricultural fields across the South and the Southeast and has been traveling north for several decades. It is found on both U.S. coasts, in the Midwest, as far north as Canada and as far south as the Mississippi Delta. Its small seeds are easily spread by birds and farm equipment, and in birdseed, livestock feed and manure. It is important to remove Palmer amaranth early in its growth cycle. If left unchecked, the weed can grow aggressively, spread quickly and have a

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Palmer amaranth.

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://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/archive/

Diseases (Continued)

chlorosis (yellowing) or reddish tones, uneven color, and result in distortion, curling or cupping of leaves. Repeated infections of powdery mildew on landscape trees and shrubs may cause dieback as it interferes with photosynthesis and the movement of nutrients. Late in the season, dark pinpoint fruiting bodies may be observed in some powdery mildews on the lower surface of leaves. These dark fruiting bodies survive the winter. Powdery mildew fungi are favored by high humidity. For management, rake up and discard leaves that fall, maintain trees and shrubs in good vigor, prune to keep good air circulation amidst plants, and water during times of drought. Prune back perennials in the very early spring to remove inoculum. Preventative fungicides such as myclobutanil, propiconazole, and tebuconazole are an option, but check labels and apply when symptoms are first observed next spring. Several applications may be required. Bio-rational products such as neem oil are generally not as effective. Resistant flowering dogwood cultivars include 'Appalachian Joy', 'Appalachian Blush', 'Appalachian Snow', and 'Appalachian Mist'.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

What's Hot (Continued)

devastating impact on pollinator plots, conservation areas and crop yields. Control by hand weeding, mechanical removal, spot burning and spot herbicide treatments. Care must be taken since broken-off stems as small as one inch can sprout, flower and produce seed. Do not let Palmer amaranth go to seed.

Dogwood powdery mildew. Photo credit: N. Gregory

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF August 29, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2800 ('16 = NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2799 ('16 = NA)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 3081 ('16 =NA)

Cryptomeria scale. Photo credit: Lorraine Graney, Barlett Tree Experts, bugwood.org

Scoliid wasp. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Searching scoliid wasp. Photo credit: B. Kunkel