

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 25

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

LATE SEASON INSECTS feeding on deciduous foliage this late in the year do not usually require treatment to manage their populations. Occasionally, samples arrive at the office with damaged foliage with no signs of insects or disease. Foliage receiving treatments now often miss the target pest; plus deciduous foliage will senesce soon anyway. Evergreens suffering damage now need further investigation to see if treatment this fall is still worthwhile. Record the host plant and type of damage (chewing, stippling, borers, etc...), client or property, location of plants, and treatment history of the site, and keep these in a file for use next year. Although the causal agent of the damage may not be present this fall when the damage is found, progress towards identifying what the culprit may have been can be accomplished during the late fall or winter. Photographs of the damage and host plant can provide clues to successful pest identification when it is not present. Various sources such as *Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs* by Johnson and Lyon or *Garden Insects of North America* by Whitney Cranshaw, provide lists of host plants and their commonly associated insect pests. Similar references are available for disease identification. Winter can be a fantastic time of year to plan the activities or management plans for the following spring for the properties managed or plants grown. Creation of a 'pest calendar' that depicts various pests your company may deal with during the upcoming year may be a valuable tool for employees regarding pest diagnosis.

Plants damaged this fall should be monitored for the suspected insect or disease next spring or summer to catch it at an

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

ESTABLISHMENT or lack of establishment, is the cause for many tree and shrub deaths in the landscape. Depending on the tree or shrub, establishment can take up to three years. By establishment, we mean the development of a good anchoring root system and the development of a good fine feeder root system. Transplant shock can be a more rapid decline after planting, by which a plant dries rapidly or wilts due to being injured in the transplant process. For establishment of trees and shrubs, there are several factors important to consider. First, choose the right plant for the right place, keeping in mind soil type, drainage, sun exposure and exposure to wind. Second, chose a healthy tree or shrub. It may be tempting to purchase plants on sale at the end of the season, but those plants left in stock may be ones with slight mechanical injury

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What's Hot!

Stress has taken a toll on sycamore and poplar, but the scorch is probably not disease.

Japanese stilt grass has started to flower. So, now is the time to mow or cut it back to prevent seed from developing for next year. This won't prevent stilt grass from growing in an area since there is so much stilt grass seed produced throughout the region, but it might reduce the seed load in a given location.

Insects (Continued)

appropriate time. When the damage is occurring (not old damage), look for the disease or insect and collect a sample for identification.

Current potential pests continuing to feed include: lace bugs (different species), some caterpillars (different species), spruce spider mites, eriophyid mites (privet rust mite, white pine sheath mite), some scale species may have 2nd instars feeding and sawflies (dogwood sawfly, redheaded pine sawfly). Nuisance insects still likely to be encountered include: brown marmorated stink bug, multicolored Asian lady beetle, boxelder bugs and pine seed bugs. Many insects are beginning to search for shelter to overwinter; thus treatments at this time of the year may not be needed.

For more information

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

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
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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Diseases (Continued)

to the base, poor root systems, pot bound root systems, or those struggling with nutrient deficiency or disease. Third, plant the tree or shrub properly, digging a wide enough hole and preparing the soil well, removing wires or burlap, planting at the proper depth, watering in well, and mulching to maintain soil moisture and prevent lawn mower injury.

Most trees do not need staking, unless they are in an extremely windy area, are in very sandy soil or have a poor root ball. If you do stake, be sure there is about 1" play in the staking cord to allow for some natural sway and use a flexible cord that will not injure the bark. Do not use wire and rubber hose. Be sure to remove the stakes as soon as the root system is secure and definitely by one year after planting. Trees that remain staked after one year can become girdled, bark can be injured and they will be more susceptible to disease and insect injury due to wounding from the staking cords.

Check on your tree or shrub often during the first couple of years. Water once a week deeply if there is no rain, avoid wounding with mowers or string trimmers, do not over fertilize or over-mulch, and avoid exposure to lawn herbicides in the drip zone. Scout for pests and disease.



Stressed maple trees during establishment
Photo credit: Nancy Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF September 22, 2015

- Swarthmore College
(Delaware County, PA) NA = ('14 = 3024)
- Fischer Greenhouse
(New Castle County) = 3397 ('14 = 3034)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown
(Sussex County) = 3498 ('14 = 2988)