Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 26

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

RECORD KEEPING and EVALUATION. Another growing season is nearly finished for landscape and nursery plants, and soon most insects will be entering diapause. Some insects and other arthropods will continue to feed for a few more weeks until early winter. Now is a good time to observe our plants to record which plants had pests, and to evaluate the efficacy of our management programs. Pesticide efficacy against armored scale is easily observed at this time of the year. Scouting plants in the landscape now or shortly after leaf senescence may reveal insect populations that have not caused serious problems, but their populations may warrant monitoring. A list of pest problems will allow you to be better prepared for those pests next year. Some pest populations may be in locations for suitable cultural management options (e.g. pruning) or dormant oil applications. Equipment maintenance and a late season calibration are useful activities to perform prior to storing tools away for the winter.

NUISANCE INVADERS. Some insects are about to become nuisance pests for homeowners. Common invading insects include: multicolored Asian lady beetle, boxelder bugs, brown marmorated stink bugs, leaf-footed bugs, crickets, and grasshoppers. The best management technique for these home invaders is exclusion through winterizing the home. Caulking or sealing gaps and crevices prevent most of the access points. New screening for windows or doors also limit access points to a home.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

TRANSPLANT STRESS Autumn has arrived and now is one of the best times to plant new trees. Cool-season planting allows for good root development, as long as there is adequate moisture. There may be less stress from heat and drought in cool conditions. Woody trees and shrubs may take as long as 3 years to recover from transplanting and become established.

When trees and shrubs are moved from one planting site to another, or out of containers in to landscape sites, they experience stress that may affect root establishment. Stress may be the effect of handling, wounding, poor site selection, poor site preparation, or poor soils, and "transplant shock" may occur. Injury from equipment, weather, or chemicals can also lead to stress and decline. Plants that suffer from transplant shock may show dieback, wilt, marginal scorch, chlorosis, small leaves, leaf drop, suckers or water sprouts, slow growth, or die. Root pathogens may move into wounded or stressed plants, and insects may be attracted to stressed trees and shrubs.

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What's Hot!

Drought stress followed by rains has brought down many leaves from hardwood trees such as sycamore and maple.

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Mushroom fruiting bodies are still common in the landscape. Rake to break up.

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Don't forget spruce spider mites and southern red mites are cool season mites, and damage they cause shows up the following summer. If you have had spruce spider mite damage on Christmas trees this past summer, now is the time to apply miticides to limit that damage.

Establishment of transplanted trees. Photo credit: N. Gregory.

TURF

Pete Dernoeden, PhD

Gray leaf spot in tall fescue began in DE in late August 2017. In lawns and roughs, symptoms are generally confined to small, sunny areas and appear as a browning and thinning. The disease in TF develops in a

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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)

Several diseases cause symptoms similar to those resulting from transplant shock related stress, so it's important to note conditions and site history. Diagnoses may be difficult, as the original cause of plant stress may not be known or no longer present. Make notes on trees that exhibited symptoms and check them in the spring. For trees and shrubs with dieback, prune in the early spring and re-evaluate a few weeks later.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

Turf (Continued)

spotty pattern of light-brown, blighted leaves that appear fine-textured (like drought stressed fine fescue) due to shriveling. Leaf lesions are found on adjacent green leaves. GLS kills TF in a spotty pattern, but turf often recovers in blighted areas due to survivors and filling-in of tillers by adjacent, unaffected plants.

Preventive application of fungicide(s) is the most effective approach where GLS is known to be an "on and off" chronic problem. The QoI / strobilurin fungicides (i.e., Compass, Dismiss, Heritage, Insignia, others) are very effective and provide for long residual control. Affirm/Endorse, 3336 Plus and DMI/SI (i.e., Banner, Bayleton, Eagle, Tourney, Trinity, Triton, Torque, others) also are effective, but the DMI/SI fungicides perform much better when mixed with a contact fungicide. Once disease develops, higher rates and more frequent applications usually are required. For curative control, it is extremely important to tank-mix one of the aforementioned with a contact (i.e., Daconil, other chlorothalonil generics; or Fore, other mancozeb generics) to more quickly subdue the pathogen. The GLS fungus rapidly develops resistance to thiophante-methyl (3336Plus, TM, others). Rotating and tank mixing fungicides greatly reduces potential resistance problems.

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF October 10, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 3596 ('16 = NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 3574 ('16 = NA)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 3889 ('16 = NA)

Lesions are variously shaped; margin lesions are gray with dark-reddish-brown borders; other lesions are brown with or without a tan center. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden

Blighted leaves and light brown and shriveled. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden