

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

May 13, 2016

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

LACE BUG egg hatch occurs between 181 - 251 [202 peak] GDD₅₀. The plant phenological indicator for egg hatch is full bloom of *Aesculus hippocastanum*. First generation nymph activity is 240 - 561 [318 peak] GDD₅₀ and should be occurring now. Other areas in the region may see nymph activity start between 240 - 998 [430 peak] GDD₅₀. Management of the first generation or overwintering adults reduces the impact this pest has on infested plants for the rest of the summer. Hawthorn, azalea, sycamore, and oak lace bugs are all common species found in the mid-Atlantic area. Hawthorn lace bugs feed on hawthorn, cotoneaster, quince, crabapple, mountain ash, and pyracantha. Azalea lace bugs feed various azaleas; oak lace bugs feed on different species of oak trees. Overwintering hawthorn lace bug adults begin feeding in the spring at 196 - 472 [349 peak] GDD₅₀ or when *Lagerstroemia indica* is at the leaf bud break phenological stage. Oak, sycamore, and azalea lace bugs may have two to three generations a year.

Shiny black fecal spots on the underside of the leaves called tar or resin spots, or the stippled (whitish- to bronzed-colored) upper leaf surfaces indicate lace bug activity. Lace bug nymphs are not lacelike, but are spiny and usually dark brown to black.

Horticultural oil or insecticidal soap applications must contact the insects; thus spray the underside of leaves. Both products have low impact on natural enemies attacking lace bugs. Heavy infestations may require the use of products such as acephate, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, imidacloprid, dinotefuran, chlorantraniliprole, acetamiprid and pyrethrin. Do not use imidacloprid as a treatment on plants with a history of mite problems.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

FOLIAR NEMATODES are similar to soil dwelling nematodes that affect plant roots, but foliar nematodes migrate up plant stems and affect the leaves and flowers. These nematodes are primarily in the Genus *Aphelenchoides*, have stylets (piercing mouth probes), and use enzymes to break down plant cells and extract nutrients. Foliar nematode infection symptoms include off-color, water-soaked areas bounded by the veins, distortion of leaf shape, and bronzing or reddening of leaves. Many different plants are susceptible to *Aphelenchoides* including various ferns, begonia, lantana, hibiscus, iris, anemone, chrysanthemum, fragaria, hepatica, heuchera, hosta, hypericum, iris, lily, malva, peony, poppy, phlox, dahlia, and shrubs such as leucothoe and privet. There are few labeled nematicidal products that can be used to

(Continued)

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What's Hot!

May is prime tick season. This Rhode Island website has lots of information about tick ID and strategies for protecting yourself: <http://www.tickencounter.org/>

Anthracnose continues to be problematic on hardwood trees.

Eastern tent caterpillars are still wandering around to find a place to pupate - no treatments needed.

Calico Scale females are swelling (producing eggs): either apply drench so product is in place when crawlers hatch if you use a systemic, or prepare for crawler activity in few weeks.

Boxwood leafminer adults may still be flying (active in Lancaster this week, active on campus last week).

Doug Tallamy is looking for buck moth caterpillars. If you find any please either CONTACT (bakunkel@udel.edu) OR (dtallamy@udel.edu).



Buck moth caterpillar. Photo credit: Jeffrey Phippen

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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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

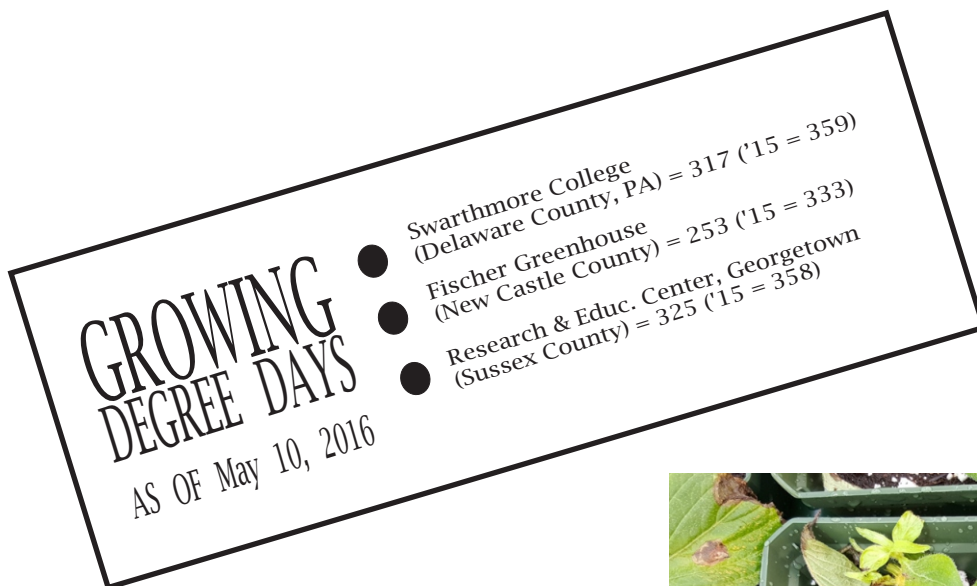
control foliar nematodes. Management is best accomplished by planting clean stock, good sanitation and cleanup of debris, adequate spacing of susceptible plants, cleaning of pruning tools, and avoiding water splash or overhead water. Foliar nematodes need a film of water to travel upward on the plant, so keeping the above-ground portion of the plant dry can be very important. Foliar nematodes may be more of a problem this season due to the moisture.

BOTRYTIS BLIGHT is everywhere--on fading flowers, new buds, frost damaged tips, and on greenhouse bedding plants and vegetables. Botrytis is a common fungus with a very wide host range, favored by damp and cloudy conditions. Trim off frost damaged foliage and blooms to avoid the Botrytis fungus becoming established in the twigs. Discard rather than compost. Tulip fire is a disease that looks like a scorch, which is caused by the fungus Botrytis. Strawberry plants are very susceptible to Botrytis blight. Sanitation is key to control.



Foliar nematode on peony. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Lace bug close ups.



Botrytis on greenhouse cuttings. Photo credit: N. Gregory