

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

## INSECTS

May 12, 2017

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

HONEYLOCUST plant bugs are active as nymphs from 94 - 958 [329 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub> and 202 - 1248 [637 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub> for our region. Damage from this insect has been found nearby in Maryland. Honeylocust plant bugs frequently overwinter as eggs on twigs underneath tree bark. Eggs hatch shortly after the tree leafs out in the spring. Nymphs are yellowish to pale green and have a distinct orange spot in the middle of their abdomen. Nymphs and adults have piercing/sucking mouthparts; thus, they remove plant juices and contents from cells. Their toxic saliva causes a small yellowish spot that eventually turns brown. The damage may appear as leaf rolling, stunting, distortion or chlorosis. The damage may be severe enough to cause complete defoliation; however, tree death rarely occurs from their feeding. It takes about 30 days for nymphs to complete development to adults. Adults are about 3/16" in size and are pale green to yellow with wings held flat over their back. Adults are also found beginning around the time *Cornus florida* is in bloom. There is one generation per year with populations declining by early July.

HONEYLOCUST spider mites are also out feeding on foliage and can cause premature defoliation in the late summer if populations are high. They feed on the undersides of leaves along the veins. Their feeding with piercing sucking mouthparts can cause yellow to whitish stippling on the leaves.

Monitor for this insect by tapping foliage onto a white notepad. Green-leaved varieties of honeylocust are less susceptible and could be an option. A strong stream of water may dislodge nymphs from foliage as a non-chemical method of reducing damage and managing their populations. Insecticide options include neonicotinoids, pyrethroids, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or carbaryl. Growth regulators targeting mites include hexythiazox or etoxazole and both have relatively long residual control. If mites are present when honeylocust plant bugs are treated with insecticides, imidacloprid should not be used because this product will increase spider mite populations.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

POWDERY MILDEW ON CALLERY PEAR. Leaves of *Pyrus calleryana* 'Cleveland Select' showing distortion and signs of powdery mildew were collected in April in Kent County, Delaware. Microscopically, leaves had an *Oidium* fungus and no sexual fruiting bodies present. A powdery mildew fungus has been described in Maryland (Minnis et al, 2010) as *Podosphaera leucotricha*. The fungus is the causal agent of a powdery mildew disease that occurs worldwide on rosaceous plants, primarily

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE (Continued)

Issue 8

## What's Hot!

Some birds are sensitive to toxins produced by *Nandina*. Choices for cultivars that do not produce fruit include Fire Power, Gulfstream, Nana, Obsession, Woods Dwarf, Sienna Sunrise, and Lemon Lime. Look for native shrubs such as inkberry as replacements too. Cultivars such as Shamrock, Nova Scotia, and Nordic are all good cultivars for our area, with a height of 4 to 5 feet.

## WEEDS

The product Roundup® For Lawns is a new product recently registered by the EPA and available for homeowners. This product does not contain glyphosate at all and is simply taking advantage of the homeowner awareness of the herbicide name Roundup. In the past, all products marketed as Roundup contained glyphosate. This new product, Roundup® For Lawns, has several formulations—one is recommended for southern lawns and one for northern lawns. Both contain dicamba for broadleaf weed control and sulfentrazone for nutsedge, kyllinga and some problematic broadleaved seeds like ground ivy and wild garlic. The southern version also contains 2,4-D, also for broadleaved weed control and penoxsulam, which controls select broadleaved weeds. PBI Gordon is marketing the same four ingredients under Avenue® South. Additional ingredients in the northern version

(Continued)

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

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

*Malus* and *Pyrus*. It is not common, and does not affect the long-term health of the trees, but this is another new one for Delaware. Callery pear also has been showing symptoms of fire blight in some locations in the past few weeks.



Powdery mildew on callery pear 'Cleveland Select'. Photo credit: N. Gregory

FEW MAPLE SEEDS! Have you noticed there are very few maple seeds coming down? These samaras are sometimes called whirlybirds, helicopters or noseys. A frost as maple flowers were expanding resulted in a lack of seed set. Frost and freeze injury in April as buds expanded hurt winterhazel (*Corylopsis* sp.) and other members of the Hamamelidaceae Family. Also affected were some flowering *Prunus*, and white pine showed tip dieback due to frost. Overall, frost damage should not affect the long-term health of trees. Wait to prune until dieback is obvious.

Weeds (Continued)

- include MCPA for
- broadleaved weed control
- and quinclorac for post-emergent crabgrass control
- and many troublesome broadleaved weeds (e.g. dichondra, dollarweed, etc.).
- Help your customers understand the difference between active ingredients and product trade names
- and make sure they (and you) follow all label instructions and guidelines.
- Thanks to TURF ALERTS from NC State for this info.

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF May 9, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 339 ('16 = 317)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 366 ('16 = 253)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 482 ('16 = 325)



Honeylocust plant bug. Photo credit: John A. Weidhass, VPI



Honeylocust damage. Photo credit: Dan Herms