

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 1

INSECTS

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So far, March has provided us with cool wet temperatures thanks in part to the frequent nor'easters. Although we had some warmer temperatures earlier in the year, our GDD₅₀ still sits at zero for both New Castle and Sussex counties. This is because we begin accumulating growing degree days starting on 1 March for our area; whereas, other states or institutions may begin recording this information on 1 January. Some of our early insect issues are the eastern tent caterpillars and bark beetles. Other insects we may see early in the year include: carpenter bees (nuisance issues mostly), tip moths, white pine weevils, psyllids, white pine sheath mites, aphids, pine sawflies and boxwood leafminers. If eastern tent caterpillars were active in your area during the earlier warm spell, the nor'easters and colder temperatures we've had since have reduced their populations.

Make sure you have the tools you need for scouting and applying management techniques successfully. This could include hand lenses; nozzles, tips, and other spray equipment; sufficient supply of non-expired pesticides and fertilizers; sharpened tools; and a plan in place for managing pests when they occur. Landscapes with pest issues have similar pests occurring annually until they are successfully managed. Plan when to scout certain landscapes for their pests during the off-season so you are better prepared for the upcoming year.

Two important insects are - emerald ash borers (we found our first one two summers ago on a trap), and the spotted lanternfly (new invasive found last fall). As you scout this spring, watch for egg masses of this pest. Egg masses look similar to gypsy moth egg masses but are grayish. Look for more information in future Hotline issues. This insect feeds on tree-of-heaven, grapes, and many other plants. We need to find where it is now to help slow the spread.

Monitoring for beetle flight is an important tool for managing these pests. Research has found ethanol to be the most attractive compound for these two species; therefore, traps with ethanol will attract even small populations. Traps within 0.5 m (1.6 ft) of the ground catch the greatest number. Treatment options include

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DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

SPRING CLEANUP is an important phase of gardening and landscape efforts, to reduce or eliminate "Initial Inoculum" of disease-causing micro-organisms. Prune out old infections of fire blight, bacterial blight, canker, and rust galls from woody

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What's Hot!

Review your records from last year to note problem spots and key pests/key plants to focus on in this year's scouting.

We've seen winter burn on broad-leaved evergreens, and severe bronzing on cryptomeria and Leyland cypress. Wait to prune..

Monitor soil temperatures for weed preemergent application. Several days at 55 F can mean the start of the season. Japanese stilt grass preemergent should go down prior to crabgrass control.

Visit these two blogs for more up-to-date info: The Hot Topics in Plant Health blog by Nancy Gregory (<http://extension.udel.edu/ag/hot-topics-plant-disease/>) highlights new or seasonal plant health and pest topics. The Landscape and Horticulture blog of Sue Barton (<http://sites.udel.edu/suebarton/>) highlights educational programs and sustainable landscape resources.

For the first two issues of Ornamentals Hotline, we will mail to all 2017 subscribers. If you haven't resubscribed, please visit this URL <http://www.udel.edu/ornamentals-hotline> and subscribe, so you don't get dropped from the list.

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/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

ornamentals, including twig swellings and old affected fruit found on juniper, quince, serviceberry, and hawthorn. Brown rot mummies can serve as reservoirs of *Monilinia* on peach and other stone fruits. Prune out diseased material when the weather is dry, prune well below the affected areas, and clean pruners between cuts. Discard pruned branches for disposal off the property, do not leave in a nearby cull pile, or chip on site.

PLANT VIRUSES such as tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) may be found in plug trays of annuals that were shipped in January and February. Individual companies and each state Department of Agriculture has inspectors and clean plant protocols, but infected plants slip through. Subtle symptoms include a mild chlorosis or mottle, or some stunting. If you are concerned, contact your supplier for information, or send plant samples in to the UD Plant Diagnostic Clinic for testing. TMV is easily mechanically transmissible, has a very wide host range and is able to survive for a long time on debris, pots, and tools. It is always a good practice to inspect plants in retail and wholesale settings.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

Insects (Continued)

bark sprays with permethrin or bifenthrin on the trunk or major branches of host plants every two weeks until full leaf flush. Management efforts should be focused on high value trees and infested trees should be kept for 50 days before removal.



Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) symptoms on petunia. Photo credit: N. Gregory

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF March 13, 2018

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 0 ('17 = 25)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 0 ('17 = 30)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 0 ('17 = 32)



Spotted lantern fly adults and eggs. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Spotted lantern fly eggs covered and uncovered. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Spotted lantern fly egg mass. Photo credit: B. Kunkel