Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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INSECTS

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

FALL WEBWORMS. The first generation of fall webworms occurs between 802 – 1517 [1105 peak hatch] GDD_{50} and have completed development. The black-headed race of fall webworms was found on trees at a nursery. Fall webworms feed on over 85 species of trees including, walnut, hickory, fruit trees, maples, popular, oak, linden, cherry, and sweetgum. The second and usually more noticeable second generation occurs between 1401 – 3226 [2723 peak] GDD_{50}. Second generation caterpillars have been found in New Castle and Sussex counties

Adult webworms are white, sometimes with brown to black spots on their wings and emerge in mid- to late-June. The larvae are pale yellow to pale green with black spots along the back and covered with long white to yellowish hairs. There are two "races" of fall webworms – those with red- or black-colored head capsules. Larvae form webbing around a few leaves and feed gregariously encasing other leaves in their webbing as they grow. Caterpillars feed for about six weeks before they pupate in the soil, bark crevices or leaf litter.

Manage fall webworm populations now to reduce populations occurring during August or September. Their damage is still mostly aesthetic. Control options now are the same as later populations and include tearing the webbing to facilitate access to the caterpillars for natural enemies, removal of the webbing, or chemical treatment. Pruners, strong stream of water, hands, stick or other tools are the easiest ways to tear open, remove the webbing, or remove the leaves being consumed. Wasps use these openings to crawl in and remove the caterpillars. Pesticide applications are rarely necessary for this insect but may include spinosad, insecticidal soap, chlorantraniliprole, a pyrethroid, carbaryl, or an insect growth regulator such as tebufenozide or diflubenzuron.

TURF

Peter Dernoeden
Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland

DROUGHT AND MOWER DAMAGE. Soil moisture depleted rapidly in response to the heat wave of early July, and many areas succumbed to drought dormancy. Mowing on a schedule, when turf was wilted or very dry, caused severe damage. Most damaged areas will take weeks to recover, even under the best of conditions.

YELLOWS. In irrigated areas, tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass lawns growing in heat sink areas (i.e., adjacent to driveways and

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Green June beetle (GJB) are active. The large size, metallic green color, and buzzing sound of GJB are prominent. Females are now laying their eggs. Their white larvae are huge, up to the size of a thumb, and their tunneling and mounding activities can damage turf as well as mower blades. It is likely that the wide spread usage of preventive Japanese beetle grub materials like Merit and others, in professional managed turf, has resulted in their decline as a major turf pest in our region.

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Cicada killer wasp mounds appeared in late June. These sand wasps resemble very large hornets. They have rust-colored

(Continued)

Fall webworm nest. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

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 p
edu/orname

Turf (Continued)

sidewalks) developed a yellow and elongated (etiolated) growth. This is a physiological phenomenon in hot and wet soils, in which turf grows rapidly, but chlorophyll production does not keep-up to maintain green color. Some people call it “mad tiller,” but this is a misnomer. The condition will eventually abate with cooler and drier weather, but mowing height should be increased to avoid further stress injury to tender tissues.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

What’s Hot (Continued)

heads, yellow wings, and yellow and black striped abdomens. They have a buzzing and menacing manner, but rarely sting humans. These wasps prefer to burrow into sandy embankments of bunker faces and southwest facing slopes on greens and even lawns. Soil is pushed to the surface as female's tunnel and create U-shaped soil mounds 3-6 inches in length. Mounds often smother grass in patches and damage mower blades. Once burrows are prepared, females ambush adult cicadas and bring them to the brood chamber, where the wasp lays an egg in the victim. The female backs-out of the tunnel and seals the cell. Emerging larvae consume the Cicada as a food source. Females continue the process until late summer, when Cicada populations naturally decline. Professional turf mangers seldom achieve effective control with insecticides, but some use insect nets or tennis racquets to incapacitate adults.

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF July 31, 2018

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2121 ('17 =2165)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2109 ('17 =2171)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2254 ('17 = 2413)

Cicada killer female carrying a stung Cicada to her brood chamber. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden

Soil mound and indenttion caused by a Cicada killer wasp preparing a brood chamber. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden

Yellow elongated leaf growth common in Ky bluegrass and tall fescue grown in hot and wet areas. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden

Metallic green June beetle adult laying eggs in a lawn. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden

Mechanical damage caseudf by mowing a drought stressed lawn. Photo credit: P. Dernoeden