Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

August 24, 2018 Issue 22

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

REOCCURING PESTS. This is the time of year to find reoccurring pestsm and pests near the end of their activity period. For example, the second generation of bark beetles are attacking newly planted or establishing trees (i.e., planted last year) in landscapes throughout the state. The initial opportunity to manage these insects is during the spring with bark sprays containing either bifenthrin or permethrin after three consecutive days of 70ºF weather. This group of pests have generation times of about 55 days; consequently, we may see signs (frass appearing as toothpicks) sticking out of trunks now. Management options are the same – keep plants healthy to reduce stress levels. Stressed plants are frequently attacked by this group of insects. Established and mature trees are more able to withstand attack from these beetles but should still be monitored and treated to minimize chances of multiple repeat infestations.

Another example of recurring pests are the armored scales. These include, white prunicola, white peach, Japanese maple, *Cryptomeria* and elongate hemlock scales. All these species have two or more generations a year in our area, and the second generation is often forgotten until the following spring. Manage these scale species with horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or insect growth regulators at crawler activity for any generation. Perform follow-up inspections and make additional applications targeting crawlers in the next generation as appropriate. Systemic products such as neonicotinoids or a new product called Altus can provide control options for more than one generation.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

SUMMER PATCH ON TURF occurs during the summer, especially during periods of high temperature and drought. Caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe poae*, symptoms include blades that are first light green then fade rapidly to a straw color (may be confused with wilting). These areas are often circular or sometimes irregular patches often with living grass or weeds in the center. Smaller patches may merge and result in blight on large areas of turf. Patches can be sunken and leaves at the borders may have a bronzed appearance. Tip dieback of leaves gives the turf a straw-brown color. It takes several years for enough of the pathogen to build up, so bluegrass and fine fescues older than two years are killed by this disease. Even tall fescue sod often contains bluegrass added to knit sod together, so you can see damage in a primarily tall fescue sodded lawn. To manage this disease seed with tall fescue or plant resistant cultivars of bluegrass. Avoid high nitrogen, wet soil, compaction and low mowing. Use labeled fungicides preventatively, such as azoxystrobin and others noted

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Saturated soils are widespread in the region. Plants may show yellowing (chlorosis) or leaf drop with with root stress.

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Keep an eye out Spotted Lanternfly adults are moving and feeding in PA. Delaware Department of Ag are monitoring for this insect in DE. If one is found, please contact them immediately.

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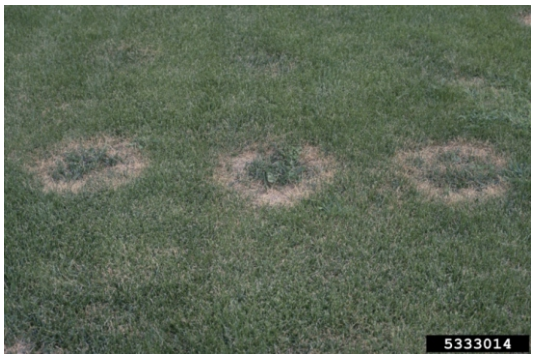
Be careful when pruning hedges this time of year, you might find a hornet's nest

White faced hornet's nest in hedge.
Photo credit: J. McWilliamsl



Summer patch. Photo credit: M. Hansen, VA Tech

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 pictures at http://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/

Diseases (Continued)
in the fact sheet from NCSU:
https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/diseases-in-turf/summer-patch-in-turf/

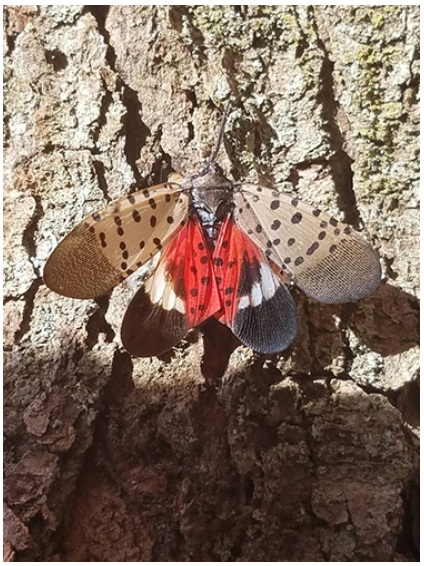
BASIL DOWNY MILDEW caused by the oomycete pathogen *Peronospora belbahrii* has been confirmed in Sussex County. It is very specific to basil. Symptoms on affected plants include yellowing on the top leaf surface in between the veins. Blackening of the affected leaf, especially on the margins, occurs as the disease progresses. Inconspicuous grayish dark sporulation of the downy mildew pathogen occurs on the undersides of the leaves. Basil downy mildew spores are produced in abundance and can be spread on by air currents, as well as on infected leaf material and seeds. Discard affected plants. Use fungicide sprays in a preventative manner, but they will not provide good control once the downy mildew pathogen is producing spores. Options include phosphorus acid salt products such as ProPhyt or K-Phite, Actinovate, OxiDate, or Quadris, according to the label.

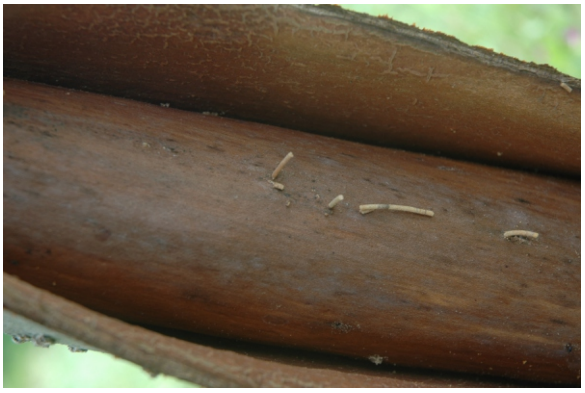
Basil downy mildew on leaf. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

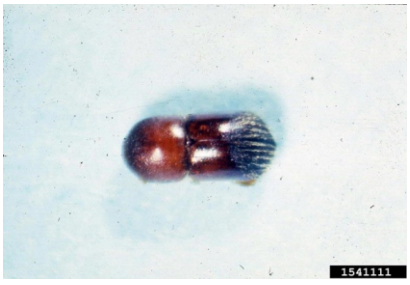
GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF August 21, 2018

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2706 ('17 = 2668)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2693 ('17 = 2674)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2875 ('17 = 2944)


Spotted Lantern Fly adult. Photo credit: B. Kunkel


Bark beetle frass emerging from trunk. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

X. germanus. Photo credit: D. Adam, Office National des Forests, bugwood.org



X. crassiusculus. Photo credit: L.L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org