

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel

Ornamental IPM Specialist

Samples I've received via "Ask an Expert", e-mail, and my cell phone over the past couple weeks include old scale infestations, wasps, western pine seed bug, leaf-footed bugs and aphids. Earlier today, I was bombarded by aggressive male carpenter bees as they establish territories where they hope to meet females.

CARPENTER BEES are actively flying around looking for mates, for locations to lay eggs, or flowers for food. Male carpenter bees will frequently hover as they look for mates and are completely harmless because they lack a stinger. They have a yellow patch of hair on their head--easy to see as they hover. This group of bees looks like bumble bees but lack the hair bumble bees have on their abdomens. Female carpenter bees will chew holes in bare, unpainted or soft wood. Carpenter bees attack redwood, cedar, cypress or pine, as windowsills, roof eaves, shingles, railings, telephone poles and sometimes doors or wooden lawn furniture.

In the past, pressure treated wood or copper arsenate treated wood was rarely attacked; however current safer pressure treated woods appear to be susceptible to this bees' excavating activities. Females chew into the wood to form brood chambers. She lays an egg and leaves 'bee bread', composed of pollen and regurgitated nectar, which the larva eats. Each tunnel will typically have six to eight brood chambers and there is only one generation per year. Bees complete development by August and they emerge to feed on nectar until they return to the tunnels to overwinter.

If treatments for the bees are desired, various insecticide dusts can be applied to the entrances using a duster, which will puff the dust into the tunnel. It is best to make these treatments at night to reduce the possibility of being stung. Leave tunnels unplugged

(Continued)

JISEASES

Nancy Gregory Plant Diagnostician

GYMNOSPORANGIUM RUSTS have been more common in the landscape, with the telial stage of the fungus showing on juniper hosts and the aecial stage showing on pomaceous hosts such as apple and pear. Telial structures are visible now on juniper. To manage, break the disease cycle by pruning out affected portions of juniper host plants where rust fungi over-winter. Teliospores germinate to form basidiospores, which are very small and easily carried on winds. Spores are carried to the alternate hosts in the spring where they cause leaf and fruit spots. Cedar apple rust (G.

(Continued)

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Issue 3

WEEDS

John Emerson

Nutrient Management Agent SPRING LAWN CARE. If you haven't put out your pre-emergent herbicide yet now is the time! The window of opportunity is closing soon. Also, now is a good time to address post-emergent control of any broadleaf weeds. ie: white clover, henbit, purple deadnettle, wild violet, and dandelions etc. If you are going to fertilize your lawn to provide a nitrogen push for spring green-up, make sure you have a soil test done first then follow the recommendations for fertility. A small amount (0.25-0.50 lbs of N/1000ft2) of slow release (WIN) nitrogen will be enough this time of the year.



Carpenter bee. Photo credit: D. Cappaert, bugwood-org

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on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know: Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	001 0001
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303
View more pictures at http://ext edu/ornamentals/	ension.ude

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Diseases (Continued)

iuniper-virainiana) galls have been observed on Eastern red cedar this season. Cedar quince rust (G. clavipes) is seen as flat oval cankers on juniper twigs, with the spore production appearing as orange powder or ooze in the cracks in twigs. Cedar quince rust can be very damaging on apple and hawthorn later in the season. Cedar hawthorn rust (G. *globosum*) occurs on junipers as small galls. Japanese apple rust (G. yamadae) forms small gelatinous galls on J. *chinensis*, and causes leaf spots on apple and crabapple. A new Gymnosporangium rust in the Mid-Atlantic is pear trellis rust, caused by G. sabinae. Pear trellis rust is found on leaves and fruit of pear, including callery pear, with small twig cankers on juniper. Protectant fungicide sprays can help to control rusts on apple, crabapple, quince, and hawthorn if applied during the infection period, through early May. Timing of labeled products is important. Do not plant apple, crabapple, hawthorn, and pear near juniper hosts.

Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 62 ('19 = 76)

Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 76 ('19 = 77)

Fischer Greenhouse

Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 111 (19 = 108)

Insects (Continued)

during the season to increase the opportunity for the female to obtain a toxic dose of the pesticide. However, in the fall seal the holes . using wood putty, carpenter's glue, or wooden dowels. This will help reduce possible wood decay and re-utilization of old nesting locations. Stained wood is also susceptible to bee attack; however, painting the wood is successful in reducing bee activity. A number of aerosol products are available for bees and wasps as a treatment. Female bees provisioning chambers can sting so use caution when applications are made.

Editor: Susan Barton

Extension Horticulturist

AS OF April 7, 2020

Carpenter bee. Photo credit: D. Cappaert, University of Maryland, bugwood-org

Cedar apple rust telial gall on juniper. Photo credit: N. Gregory