

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

May 15, 2020

Issue 8

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

Warmer temperatures finally coming at the end of the week remind us how far behind last year we are in GDD. Some rose bushes were in bloom in mid-May last year. Roses are an entomologist's dream because they can harbor all sorts of exciting problems! Aphids, Japanese maple scale, oystershell scale, thrips, black spot (oops a disease), Japanese beetles and roseslug sawflies can all be found on roses – just to name a few.

ROESLUG SAWFLIES are inconspicuous insects that will cause window-paning damage to rose leaves that eventually become smooth rounded holes. They may also cause skeletonization of the leaf. We have multiple species in our area – curled, bristly rose, and common roseslug sawfly. This group of insects look like small “leaf-green” caterpillars feeding on rose leaves; however, they are not caterpillars but instead are a foliage feeding wasp larva. Close inspection of the larva with a hand lens will reveal sawfly larvae with six or more fleshy appendages called prolegs. Caterpillars have no more than 5 prolegs and their prolegs also have fine hairs that resemble ‘fishhooks’ called crochets. Sawflies do not have crochets. Common roseslug sawfly often feeds on the surface of the leaf and skeletonizes the leaf causing it to curl or turn brown. Bristly roseslug sawfly typically feeds on the underside of the leaf, causes window-paning or skeletonization and eventually may eat holes through the leaf. Curled rose slug sawfly will feed on the leaf surface, skeletonize the leaf, and eventually consume entire leaflets except for major veins.

DISEASES (continued)

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

SYCAMORE LEAF DEVELOPMENT has been delayed this spring, giving a sparse look to sycamore trees in landscapes. Poor leaf emergence has been due to extreme fluctuating temperatures and anthracnose disease. The anthracnose fungus *Apiognomonia venata* affects sycamore and plane tree and occurs nearly every spring dependent on weather conditions. Other specific fungi cause anthracnose in other hosts. Fungi survive in bud scars and dead twigs, produce spores in response to spring rains and warmth, and cause spreading leaf spots and twig dieback. Trees can tolerate some infection and usually put out a new flush of leaves and recover by late spring. Trees that are slow to come out should be monitored but should recover after temperatures reach more consistent warm levels. Saturated soils have also led to compromised root systems and root rot in many trees and shrubs.

What's Hot!

Apply fungicides now according to the label for rose black spot and powdery mildew. Prune out any terminals showing symptoms of rose rosette disease and remove shrubs if symptoms recur.

Frost free date in our area is May 13-15, depending on location. So, that should mean we won't have another late frost. Hardy plants that were burnt back by frost earlier this month, will grow out of the injury, but tender plants put out too early may not recover.



Anthracnose on Norway maple. Photo credit: N. Gregory

For more information

on pests and 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 photos at <http://extension.udel.edu.ornamentals/>

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Insects (continued)

Adults emerge sometime in early to mid-May and lay eggs on foliage. Larvae feed on foliage until sometime in late June and then pupate either in the soil or burrow into rose canes to pupate – depends on species. There are one to two generations of sawflies per year in our area -varies by species.

Many natural enemies feed on roseslug sawflies such as spiders and other generalist predators. Management options are warranted when populations are high because they will make plants look ‘ratty’ or like they were “hit with a flame-thrower”. Removing the insect by hand and tossing them on the ground or squishing them are cultural practices that will work when populations are low. Insecticides are available and applications should be sure to cover the underside of leaves to maximize efficacy of products. Insecticides such as spinosad, insecticidal soap, pyrethroids, and Sevin will provide successful control.



Roseslug sawfly Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF May 12, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 181 ('19 = 416)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE) = 166 ('19 = 421)
- Research & Education Center - Georgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 287 ('19 = 522)



Roseslug window-pane Photo credit: B. Kunkel