Cooperative Extension
ORNAMENTALS
• H O T L I N E •
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Issue 22

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

MIMOSA WEBWORMS have high populations this year in some locations in New Castle County. They are active between 750 – 3216 GDD50 in our area. This moth is in the family Plutellidae and feeds on honey locust and mimosa trees, overwinters as pupae in crevices of the bark or in litter under trees and emerges during late spring. Seldom seen silverish-gray colored adults fly to and lay pearly white eggs on leaves.

Eggs turn pinkish just before hatching and larvae tie several leaves together. They skeletonize leaves, which eventually turn brown. Larvae are greenish brown to gray with stripes and possible tinges of pink. If the webbing is disturbed, larvae move quickly. First generation larvae usually form white cocoons in the webbing where they fed. Adults emerge in late July to early August and lay eggs on or near webbing of the previous generation. Overlooked populations of mimosa webworms could defoliate a tree if populations are high.

Thornless varieties of honeylocust seem to be very susceptible to this caterpillar's feeding thus, avoid mass plantings of thornless varieties unless they can be sprayed. Sprays using Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel), spinosad (Conserve), insect growth regulators (Dimilin, Mimic) or chlorotraniliprole (Acelepryn) should conserve natural enemy populations. These products

(continued)

DISEASES

Jill Pollok
Plant Diagnostician

LEAF BLOTCH OF HORSE CHESTNUT is caused by the fungal pathogen Guignardia aesculi. Buckeyes are also susceptible, and tolerance to this fungus varies depending on Aesculus variety. Spores overwinter on leaf debris and are released during wet weather in the spring. Cool, wet springs like this year favor initial infection. Wet summer weather will introduce additional infections. Symptoms appear in the spring as water-soaked leaf lesions which eventually turn brown. A yellow halo surrounding lesions is common. Leaves might eventually become curled and distorted and drop from the tree. Look for black fungal fruiting bodies within the brown lesions. Guignardia leaf blotch seldom causes significant harm to established trees, but this year we've been seeing severe infection on young trees. This may lead to early leaf drop this fall. Rake and dispose of leaves at the end of the season to curb early infection next spring. Prune trees

(continued)

What's Hot!

Cercropia moth caterpillars are feeding or might be found wandering for pupation locations.

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Continue to watch for crape myrtle bark scale on crape myrtles in landscapes or nurseries

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Inspect vehicles for spotted lanternfly adults

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Saddleback caterpillars are actively feeding. These and furry puss caterpillars are both stinging caterpillars and can cause alarm to gardeners.

Saddleback caterpillar
Photo credit: Ask the Expert

Insects (continued)
will have greater efficacy if applied while larvae are still early instars. Neem products provide repellency and larval knockdown; whereas pyrethroids are used as rescue treatments.

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/

Diseases (continued)
to ensure proper airflow. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil and mancozeb may be applied at bud break during wet springs, with repeated applications on a 7-10-day schedule if wet weather persists.

Horsechestnut leaf blotch. Photo credit: J. Pollok

Mimosa webwom damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF August 25, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) 2788 ('19 = 3022)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE = 2698 ('19 =3023)
- Research & Education Center - Gorgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 2883 ('19 =3223)

Mimosa webworm damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Mimosa webworm caterpillar. Photo credit: B. Kunkel