



**TPM/IPM Weekly Report for Arborists,  
Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension**

**June 12, 2009**

**Coordinator of the electronic weekly IPM report:**

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**Regular Contributors:**

**Pest and Beneficial Insect Information:** Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialists) and Brian Clark (Extension Educator, Prince George's County)

**Disease Information:** Karen Rane (Plant Pathologist) and David Clement (Extension Specialist)

**Weed of the Week:** Chuck Schuster (Extension Educator, Montgomery County)

**Cultural Information:** Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)

**Fertility Management:** Andrew Ristvey (Regional Specialist, Wye Research & Education Ctr)

**Design, layout and editing:** Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)

Please call us if you are a commercial horticultural business finding insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems in the landscape or nursery. Send submissions to [Sklick@umd.edu](mailto:Sklick@umd.edu) or call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413.

**Energy Tour for the Commercial Green Industry, June 23, 2009**

Location: Sites in Howard, Carroll and Frederick Counties

Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413 or go to

<http://ipmnet.umd.edu/crses97.htm> for the announcement

**Borer in White Pine**

Debby Smith-Fiola is reporting a lot of bark beetle activity in Frederick County in white pines. The bark beetles were very numerous and killing several white pines that are 3 to 4 feet tall. We extracted the adults from the infested trees. Bob Rabaglia, USDA, identified the beetle as a species in the genus, *Pitophthorus*. It may be the species *P. cariniceps*.

This beetle is reported to feed mainly on pine twigs. Debby reported that she found the beetles emerging from twigs and from the trunk. Bob thinks there may be a second beetle attacking the white pine and it is likely to be in the genus *Pitygenes*.

**Control:** Susceptible trees can be treated with Astro or Onyx to try to prevent re-infestation.

**Photos by Debby Smith-Fiola**



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### Olympic-Size Minute Cypress Scale Population

Examine Leyland cypress in June for yellowing, dieback and presence of white scale covers that look like snow flecking on the needles. A Leyland cypress sample was brought into the CMREC office by Ben Hall, MainScapes, from a landscape in Columbia, Maryland. The population of scale exceeded anything we have had in before on Leyland cypress. Ben brought this in at the right time because the crawlers just started emerging on June 8.

**Control:** Since the crawlers are just emerging 0.5 % horticultural oil and Distance or Talus would be good materials to apply.



**Damage from minute cypress scale**



**Minute cypress scale with crawlers present**

### Japanese Maple Scale - Crawlers Are Out

We have been monitoring the Japanese maple scale for the last couple of weeks since so many people are interested in when the crawlers start showing up. Paula Shrewsbury's technician, Ellery Krause, pulled samples from Frederick on Monday (June 8) and crawlers had just started to emerge. Paula also pulled samples from the Laytonsville area and the crawlers had emerged there as well.

**Control:** In the next week or so you might want to apply the IGR Distance. Many growers are mixing Distance with 0.5 - 1.0 % horticultural oil.



### Fletcher Scale

We examined a sample of arborvitae that had Fletcher scale and found that the crawlers have emerged. The sample was from Frederick County.

**Control:** You can use Distance when crawlers emerge. Another option is soil applications of imidacloprid.



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## Bark Beetles in *Chamaecyparis*

A nursery from central Maryland brought in a *Chamaecyparis* that had bark beetles emerging from the branches. We photographed the beetle and Bob Rabaglia, USDA Forest Service, identified the beetles as being either *Phloesinus dentatus* or *P. canadensis*. The common name is cedar bark beetle. We talked with James Baker, retired entomologist, who is an expert on bark beetles. Jim said this native pest attacks tree some years and then you will go years without seeing damage. There must be some environmental trigger that sets it off. The infested plants have reddish, powder-like frass coming out of the holes on the trunk and major branches. The plant looks dry and turns off-color. The nursery manager noticed the exit holes and sent us the sample this week. Our student intern, Sarah Kenney, was able to extract the beetles from the galleries so we could photograph them. Examine *Chamaecyparis* for small round holes in the trunk. The reddish-brown powder-like frass is very noticeable on the trunks.

**Control:** A preventative spray needed to be applied back in late March to early April to prevent the beetles from entering the plant. In nurseries the labeled material would be Onyx and in the landscape it could be Astro or Onyx applied to the trunk and branches.

### Photos by Sarah Kenney



**Borer exit hold and frass**



**Adult Beetle**

## Bagworms Hatch

We are receiving several reports of bagworm hatching from central Maryland and the Eastern Shore of Maryland this week. Check Leyland cypress, arborvitae and junipers for the presence of small bags on the branches. Since the caterpillars just started clipping the foliage the bags are still green and blend in with the foliage.

**Control:** Bt works very well on these early instar stages.

## Japanese Beetle Adults

We received the first report of Japanese beetle adults being found on knockout roses in the Hyattsville area this week.

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## Cottony Camellia/Taxus Scale: Crawlers Continue to Emerge This Week

We are seeing an increasing number of cottony camellia/taxus scale crawlers active this week.

**Control:** Distance and 0.5 – 1.0 % horticultural oil



## Gypsy Moth Larvae

Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts, brought in gypsy moth larvae that were feeding heavily on a blue spruce in the Clarksville area this week. The larvae were in the later instar stages. We have been receiving quite a few reports of gypsy moth causing heavy damage to spruce trees.

MDA- Gypsy Moth Division: I (Stanton) spoke with the gypsy moth division at MDA and they noted they had observed the same thing that the arborists are observing – gypsy moth seems to prefer blue spruce. They said that especially when populations of gypsy moth drop in an area that they will still be concentrated on blue spruce. They have examined plant material and there was no caterpillar feeding on the oaks or any egg masses present on the oaks while a blue spruce nearby can be loaded with gypsy moth larvae. When they pupate and emerge the adult females tend to lay eggs on the blue spruce. The gypsy moth larvae are large and in the last instar stages at this time of year. If they are on spruce they would be doing major defoliation at this point.

**The take home message:** If your customers have blue spruce, examine them closely for the presence of gypsy moth populations. There is something about blue spruce that is highly attractive to gypsy moths.



**Heavy damage from gypsy moth larvae on blue spruce**  
Photo by Marty Adams



**Late instar gypsy moth larva**

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## **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – MDA Biological Control Studies**

Carol Holko, Maryland Department of Agriculture, reported that last week they released 143 *Oobius agrili*, an EAB egg parasitoid, in southern Prince George's County. EAB biocontrol experts, Leah Bauer (USFS MI), Juli Gould, (APHIS CPHST MA), and Jian Duan (ARS DE) were involved in the releases. MDA plans to release three species (includes *O. agrili*, *Spathius agrili* and *Tetrastichus planipennis*) for a biological project here in Maryland this summer. Matt Travis, MDA, secured the appropriate permits for this release. Establishment and distribution data collected by the USDA principals will be done as the project continues.

A nice fact sheet on EAB biocontrol can be found at

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/downloads/eab-biocontrol.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/eab-biocontrol.pdf).

## **Ground Beetles**

At this time of year, ground beetles are active. These beetles can fly, but most often are found running on the ground. With the recent rains, some are coming into houses through cracks and crevices. They are often dark, but can also be bright in color. Using a 10x magnifying lens, look at the rear legs for the coxae (which is an enlarged lobe that looks like a thumb) and is characteristic of ground beetles. Ground beetles are predators that feed on caterpillars and other insects so no control is necessary.



## **Winged Termites**

With the horrendous rain on Tuesday and then the humid weather on Wednesday, we saw giant swarms of alate (winged) termites here at the research center in Ellicott City. Many were quickly dying and piling up on a few of the cars in the parking lot. Termites do not have a 'pinched waist' like ants. Their wings are sutured and fall off easily. Termites have bead-like antennae and ants have elbow-shaped antennae. Your customers may see these winged adults which are an annoyance, but do not necessarily mean that they have a termite problem.



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### **Fall Webworm**

Marty Adams brought in early instar webworm larvae found in Clarksville this week. Fall webworm has a large woody plant host range. Look for webbing on the terminals of branches. The larvae feed within this webbing. There are two generations per year.

**Control:** Bt for early instars or prune out webbed branches.



### **Scab on Crabapples**

Marty Adams also reports seeing widespread apple scab infection on crabapples in Maryland. Look for the olive green spotting on the foliage. The trees will start defoliating sometime in the next couple of weeks.



**Photo by Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org**

### **Rust on Amelanchier (Shadbush)**

John Speaker reports a lot of rust on shadbush this week. The foliage is just covered with this brightly colored rust. John also noted that the lace bugs on shadbush are in the nymph stage this week. Marty Adams brought in a sample of rust on the cones of hemlock. Rust diseases are fairly host specific and many require alternate hosts to complete development.



**Rust on Crabapple**



**Rust on Hemlock**

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## Weed of the Week

Prickly lettuce, *Lactuca serriola*, often called “compassplant”, is a winter annual most often but can also appear as a biennial and is found throughout the United States in nursery and landscape settings. Prickly lettuce will have a taproot root system, a tall hollow stem emerging from a central rosette, that will two to five feet in overall height and will be filled with a bitter milky juice. The leaves are alternate, oblong lance-shaped and one to ten inches in length. The leaves have lobed bases that clasp the stem. All leaves will have prickles along the leaf margin and will also have prickles along the midvein on the lower side of the leaf. Flowers will be yellow in color, with two to five toothed petals, and will be found on the upper part of the plant in a cone.

Control of this weed can be obtained by using bromoxynil (Buctril) as a post emergent over turf, napropamide (Devrinol) in nurseries as a post emergent. Napropamide with oxadiazon (Prepair) is a granular material that can be used in containers and landscapes. Glyphosate products can be used with caution in the landscape setting keeping a clear margin from any landscape trees or shrubs. **Photo from Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide**



## Plant of the Week

*Aucuba japonica*, Japanese aucuba, is an evergreen shrub with shiny and waxy leaves that can be solid green, green with bright yellow spots or green with a center blotch of bright yellow. Aucubas are slow growers that can top off at 6-10' tall and 4-6' wide. They prefer a rich, sandy loam with well drained, moist soils in a shady spot in the sheltered garden.

The growing silhouette of aucuba is slightly irregular, and does best if planted in a natural setting. Aucubas are comfortable under the dense shade of trees. Some of the cultivars include 'Mr. Goldstrike', a male plant with bold gold splashes over the green leaf, 'Picturata', a slightly unstable color that starts out with a large blotch of gold in the center and can turn into just a spotted plant, and 'Sulphur', a plant with a dark green center surrounded by a gold border. Hardy only to zone 7, aucuba often shows winter damage with blackened leaves and stems. The plants are dioecious like hollies, with the female bearing bright red berries in the early fall. Aphids and scale can be a problem, especially with the growth of sooty mold, and *Sclerotium raulsoni* is mentioned as a possible disease problem with the stem dieback.



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## What's in Bloom or Leafing Out

Plant	Plant Stage (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	Location
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	First Bloom (June 9)	Columbia
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Silver Run
<i>Galax aphylla</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Silver Run
<i>Indigofera delora</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Silver Run
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	First Bloom (June 10)	Silver Run
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Silver Run
<i>Deutzia scabra</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Westminster
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Silver Run
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Full Bloom (June 10)	Glenelg

### Degree Day Information (as of June 11):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	869	Dulles Airport	950
Frostburg, MD	492	Martinsburg, WV	861
Mechanicsville, MD	879	National Arboretum	1254
Reagan National	1001	Salisbury	978

### Upcoming Programs

#### Energy Tour for the Commercial Green Industry, June 23, 2009

Location: Sites in Howard, Carroll and Frederick Counties

Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

#### Maryland Arborist Association and University of Maryland Pest Walk, July 7, 2009

Location: Salisbury Zoo

Salisbury, MD

Call Ginny Rosenkranz 410-749-6141 or [rosnkranz@umd.edu](mailto:rosnkranz@umd.edu) for more information

#### Cut Flower Farm Tour, July 27, 2009

Location: Farmhouse Flowers and Plants (Brookeville) and Plantmasters (Laytonsville)

Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413



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