

Commercial Horticulture

June 7, 2019

In This Issue...

- Weird weather
- Peachtree borers
- Ambrosia beetle update
- Spotted lanternfly
- Fall webworm
- Phoma blight of vinca
- Lecanium scale
- Cottony maple scale
- Japanese maple scale
- Local pesticide law
- Brown patch
- Boxwood mite
- Bad planting site
- Bark aphids
- Galls on maples
- Twolined chestnut borer
- Spittlebugs
- Syrphid flies
- Leafcutter bees
- Assassin bug hatch

Beneficial of the Week: Spined shoulder bug

Weed of the Week: Catchweed bedstraw

Plant of the Week: *Hydrangea quercifolia*

Degree Days
Announcements



Pest Predictive Calendar

IPMnet
Integrated Pest
Management for
Commercial Horticulture
extension.umd.edu/ipm

If you work for a commercial horticultural business in the area, you can report insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems (**include location and insect stage**) found in the landscape or nursery to
sklick@umd.edu

Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:

Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist, IPM for Nursery, Greenhouse and Managed Landscapes, sgill@umd.edu. 301-596-9413 (office) or 410-868-9400 (cell)

Regular Contributors:

Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialists) and Nancy Harding, Faculty Research Assistant

Disease Information: Karen Rane (Plant Pathologist), David Clement (Extension Specialist), and Joe Roberts (Plant Pathologist for Turf)

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

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

Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey (Extension Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)

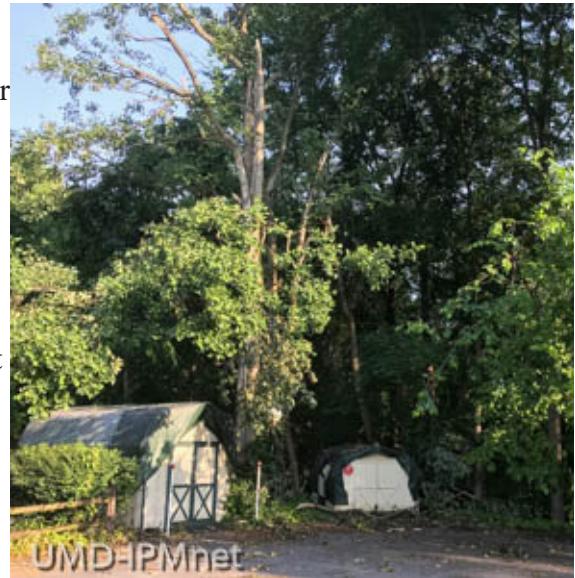
Design, Layout and Editing: Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)

Weird Weather

By: Stanton Gill

A tornado touched down in Howard County, Thursday night, May 22nd and after severe weather passed through the D.C. area, it left thousands without power in Northern Virginia on Friday morning and some continued without power on Saturday.

On May 25, violent winds brought a 10 minute long hail storm that pummeled western Howard County and parts of Frederick County. If you have customers in this area, you will see pitting in their fruit such as peach, plums and cherries from the hail damage. Brown rot will move in rapidly.



UMD-IPMnet
A recent storm caused damage to trees here at the research center in Ellicott City, including this tuliptree

On June 2nd, strong winds blew in marble size hail and took out the power in the Damascus area. On Monday, we found a tulip poplar had been snapped in half at CMREC due to the heavy winds and pelting rain.

I know native plants have been big for the last 30 years, but certainly don't plant tulip poplar close to houses. High winds tend to snap off large branches and sometimes the trunk.

On Tuesday, I spoke with a nursery owner who has a large field operation in Howard County. He said that the winds came through over the weekend and snapped off a large number of staked nursery trees. He had not experienced such extensive damage since he started his operation 25 years ago.

Peachtree Borers

By: Stanton Gill

The lesser peachtree borer, *Synanthedon pictipes*, is a moth of the family Sesiidae similar to the main peachtree borer, *Synanthedon exitiosa*. Both borers are native North American pests that can cause serious damage to peach, cherry, plum, nectarine, and apricot trees.

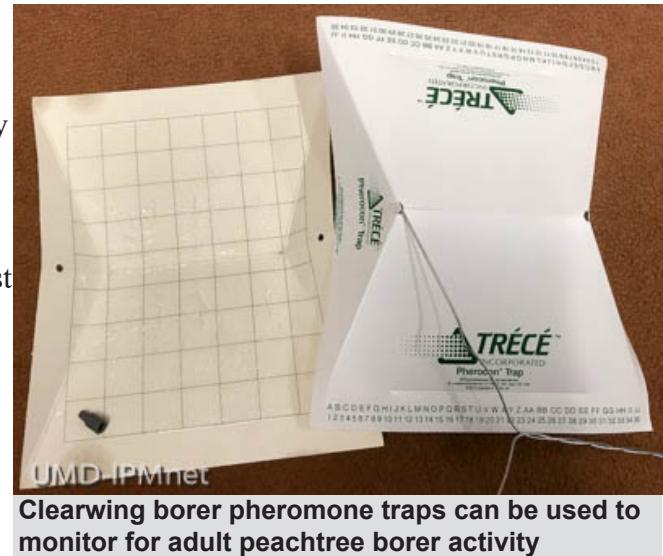
I placed out clearwing moth borer pheromone lures in Westminster, and due to the relatively cool May, did not see any flight activity of the adult males. I am placing out fresh pheromone traps in Westminster and CMREC in Ellicott City this week and will see if there is any flight activity of the lesser peachtree borer in early June. In most years, I do not see the main peachtree borer activity until the end of June to early July. The main peachtree borer is the "big one" for most nursery and landscape managers.

While the main peachtree borer and lesser peachtree borer are similar in biology and management, there are some significant differences. The main peachtree borer primarily attacks young non-bearing or unmanaged trees at or below the soil line. The lesser peachtree borer attacks older trees and does not confine its activity to the lower trunk, but can be found in the scaffold limbs, branches, and the trunk above ground.

Larvae of the lesser peachtree borer are usually found under the bark of wounds. Infestation by the lesser peachtree borer is often identified by oozing of gum on the outer bark where the borer started its attack. The gum is usually mixed with reddish-brown frass. Bark eventually peels off of damaged areas, predisposing the tree to attack by other pests and diseases. Frequently, empty brown pupal cases can be found partially exposed at the head of the larval gallery. Branches can be girdled by these borers and die.

If you are placing out your own pheromone traps in your nursery keep in mind that the adult male and female lesser peachtree borers are similar in appearance and look more like wasps than moths. Unlike most moths, these borers fly during the day. Lesser peachtree borer moths are slender, dark blue with some pale yellow markings. Both pairs of wings are clear, except for the edges and veins that have blue black scales. The antennae of the male are finely tufted. Here is how you tell them apart - the second and fourth abdominal segments of the lesser peachtree borer have narrow yellow bands, while the male peachtree borer has 3 to 4 narrow yellow bands on the abdomen. With the lesser peachtree borer, there are two generations per year with adult emergence in late May (in some seasons) and June (such as 2019), and then again in August and September.

As mentioned earlier, I generally don't see the main peachtree borer adults until late June to early July, and they only have one generation per year. I will put in pictures in the report as we start capturing adult males this late spring through the summer.



Ambrosia Beetle Update

Stanton Gill

Three weeks ago, we sent a special ambrosia beetle alert reporting that we were getting dramatic increases in adult *Xylosandrus* species in our alcohol baited traps. The photos are now flowing in of ambrosia beetle frass tubes projecting from trunks of thin barked trees. One site I visited had a large Japanese red maple with 6 major branches dying back, with each branch having a series of frass tubes projecting from the branches. This damage is hopefully the last activity out of the 1st generation. We do have a 2nd and 3rd generation coming up this summer.

Spotted Lanternfly

By: Stanton Gill and Brian Kunkel

On Tuesday, Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware Extension, and I traveled to south central Pennsylvania to look at our spotted lanternfly nursery trial that we are conducting with Syngenta Company. We and the nursery managers noted that the spotted lanternflies were just starting to really hatch out in this part of the state. The 1st instar nymphs immediately moved out to the tip growth on the red maples. They like to feed on the soft new growth of the tree at this stage of development. The interesting thing is that there was a fairly large number of egg masses around the nursery, but many of the egg masses were dead. It had been reported that two entomopathogenic fungi were found infecting SLF egg masses. We could not haul egg masses back to Maryland or Delaware so we are contacting Penn State Extension to see if they can test the egg masses to determine if the fungi are active in this nursery.

Meanwhile, MDA is putting out a monthly online update on the SLF situation in Maryland. We will list the URL in this weekly IPM report as the season progresses. Kimberly Rice, MDA, reported the following for MD: “We are finding only a few first instar nymphs in Fair Hill in Cecil County. We ask that people please keep their eyes open, especially in that area, it would be appreciated. If anyone sees anything, please email dontbug.md@maryland.gov.”

Fall Webworms

We have received several reports of fall webworm egg hatch for the first generation. Tom Lupp, MDA, found fall webworm feeding on boxelder maple in Weverton (Washington County) and Jefferson (Frederick County). Steve Clancy, Town Creek Landscaping, found them in Howard County. Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding caterpillars in Montgomery County today. Nancy Woods, MNCPPC, and Kevin Nickle, Scientific Plant Service, both sent in pictures early in the week of the adult stage. These female moths will be laying eggs over the next week or two so expect more fall webworm activity in June.

Fall webworms have a wide woody plant host range. They feed within the webbing which is around the tips of branches and not in the crotches like eastern tent caterpillars which are active much earlier in the season. There are two generations per season. Usually, the generation in late summer to fall is more abundant. There are two color forms of the caterpillar: one that is yellowish white with a black head and one that is brown with a red head. **Control:** If possible, prune out webbed terminals. Bt, horticultural oil, or insecticidal soap can be used for early instars. There are many predators and parasites that help keep this native pest below damaging levels.



“Just a few” fall webworm caterpillars hanging out in Steve’s vehicle

Photo: Steve Clancy, Town Creek Landscaping

Phoma Blight of Vinca

By: Rachel Ross and Karen Rane

Although vinca or periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is considered by many to be an undesirable invasive plant, there are many landscapes where the plant is maintained as a perennial groundcover in shady areas. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your perspective, there is a fungal disease which can cause severe damage to vinca in landscapes, and we are seeing symptoms develop now. Phoma blight of *Vinca minor* is caused by the fungus *Phoma exigua*. The symptoms typically present as brown to black lesions on the stems. These symptoms spread rapidly, leading to wilt, browning, and subsequently plant death (Figure 1). The fungus can survive in the soil as well as old runners of vinca, providing inoculum to cause disease in following seasons (Figure 2). Spores are splashed to leaves and stems with rainfall or irrigation, and extended wet weather favors infection.

For those who want to manage the disease on landscape beds of vinca, avoidance of overhead watering and improvement of air circulation are helpful, but with our recent wet weather and vinca's natural matted growth habit, that can be a challenge. Thinning your plantings can help to improve air circulation. It is important to remove any fallen/dead material from the bed. Fungicides can help protect vinca from infection, but if the disease has caused significant damage, removal of all plants and renovation of the bed will be needed. This would be the opportunity to consider using other shade-tolerant ground covers, like the native Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*). For more information on phoma blight, the University of Massachusetts has an online [fact sheet](#).



Figure 1. Typical symptom of Phoma blight on vinca – blackened stem and dark, wilted leaves.
Photo: K. Rane, UMD



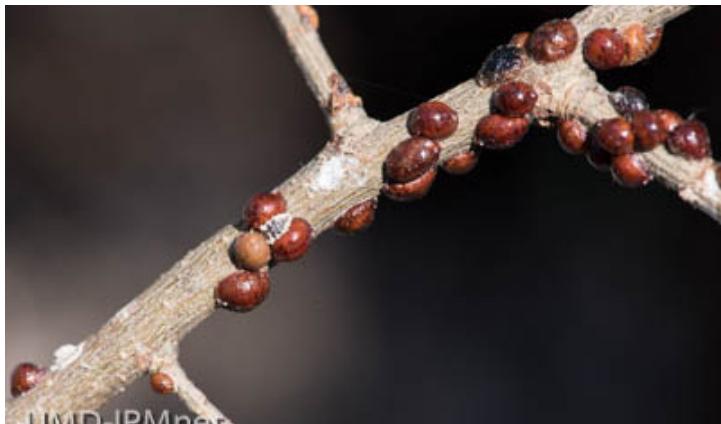
Figure 2. Stems killed by *Phoma exigua* serve as a source of inoculum for new infections.
Photo: K. Rane, UMD

Lecanium Scales

By: Stanton Gill

Several of the lecanium scales, European fruit Lecanium (*Parthenolecanium corni*), terrapin scale (*Mesolecanium nigrofasciatum*), and calico scale (*Eulecanium cerasorum*) are all in crawler stage this week in central Maryland and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Control: It is a good time to apply either Distance or Talus. Systemics such as dinotefuran or Altus can also be used.



UMD-IPMnet
European fruit lecanium scale on elm



UMD-IPMnet
Calico scale on honeylocust

Cottony Maple Scale

Heather Zindash, IPM Scout, found female cottony maple scale with eggs within the cottony ovisac on *Ulmus americana* in Rockville on June 7. Heather noted that they were being tended by two very large, reddish ants. Look for crawlers to start hatching in the next week or two. Look for the yellow crawlers on the undersides of leaves. Preferred plant hosts include maple, dogwood, elm, hawthorn, sycamore, and linden. Look for them now on the undersides of leaves.

Control: Talus or Distance with 1% oil.

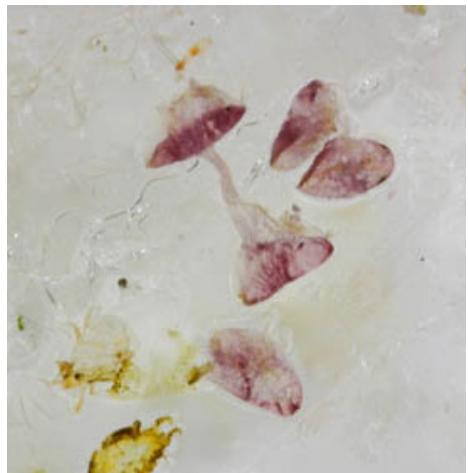


Look for crawlers of cottony maple scale at this time
Photo: Heather Zindash, IPM Scout

Japanese Maple Scale

Heather Zindash, IPM Scout, used double-sided tape to detect crawler emergence of Japanese maple scale in Baltimore County on May 31. Heather noted that she tried this method in a landscape setting, but the limb with the tape was pruned before the next visit to check/evaluate its efficacy. It worked much better in a nursery situation. The crawlers of this first of two generations will be active for the next month or so.

Control: Apply either Talus or Distance (insect growth regulators) to control the crawler stage. There is a [fact sheet](#) on this scale insect on our [IPMnet publications page](#).



A close-up of purple Japanese maple scale crawlers on double-sided tape
Photo: Heather Zindash, IPM Scout

A Local Pesticide Law Upheld

By: Stanton Gill

A bill passed in Montgomery County Bill 52-14 bans almost all pesticides for use on “lawns.” There was a lawsuit filed in Circuit Court: Complete Lawn Care vs Montgomery County, MD. In this case, the judge overturned the County pesticide ban August 2017. The County then appealed to the MD Special Court of Appeals and the Circuit Court Ruling was overturned by the Special Court of Appeals on May 2, 2019.

This ruling by the Special Court of Appeals went far beyond the scope of Bill 52-14, which was limited primarily to County owned property and private property in Montgomery County, MD. This broader scope can now be interpreted to cover the entire State of Maryland and across all industries – Agriculture, Golf, Arborists, Greenhouse, etc. This could mean that there could be as many regulations governing the use of, or banning the use of pesticides, as there are incorporated governments in Maryland. There are 17 different incorporated governments in Montgomery County.

Should you have any questions, please contact Paul Wolfe of Integrated Plant Care at 301-881-8130.

Brown Patch in Fine Fescue

Mark Schlossberg found brown patch infecting fine fescue in Ellicott City on June 6. Brown patch also infects tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and bentgrass. Brown patch starts as circular spots and spreads out to turn whole areas brown. You may see grass blades with foliar mycelium in the early morning if it is warm and humid in the early stages of the infection process. Look for brown margins with tan centers on infected foliage. Although lawns turn brown they do recoup when the weather cools down. To reduce the incidence of brown patch in tall fescue lawns, avoid applying nitrogen in the spring. Nitrogen promotes soft, succulent growth that is more susceptible to infection by the brown patch fungal pathogen, *Rhizoctonia solani*.



Brown patch starts as circular patches and spreads out to turn whole areas brown

Photo: Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc.

Boxwood Mites

Heather Zindash, IPM Scout, found boxwood mite eggs this week. If you find boxwood egg hatch, please let Stanton know at sgill@umd.edu.



Look for egg hatch of boxwood mites at this time
Photo: Heather Zindash, IPM Scout

Bad Planting Site

By: Stanton Gill

Red maple is a wonderful tree for urban landscapes, but it occasionally is stuck in the wrong situation which ensures it will develop root problems followed by insect borer problems. Take a look at this island planting of red maples. Not only are they planted in a restricted root area, but a weed barrier was placed on the soil and then covered with stone to keep weeds down. Red maple is a shallow rooted plant and needs a fair amount of water during the season. The trees are showing trunk bark cracking and secondary borer problems. Leaves are small in size and new growth is 2 – 3” in length. These issues are all indications that a plant is not growing in a good situation. The insect problem is really a secondary problem with the borer’s moving into a tree with cracking bark from root injury.



Rock covers a weed barrier creating additional stress for this island planting

Photo: Stanton Gill



Multiple stressors are causing problems for these maples

Photo: Stanton Gill

Large Aphids Active

By: Stanton Gill

Casey Johnson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in West Virginia found a very healthy population of very large bark aphids on willow. Aphid populations tend to explode at this time of year until predators and parasite populations build up to bring them under control.



Bark aphids are covering a section of the trunk on this willow

Photo: Casey Johnson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Galls on Maples

Michael Risell, Great American Landscapes, found growths coming out of the leaves on a maple tree. These growths are galls caused by an eriophyid mite. They are harmless and control is not necessary.



Eriophyid mites are causing the galls on this maple
Photo: Michael Risell, Great American Landscapes

Twolined Chestnut Borer

By: Stanton Gill

I received a call from a Maryland arborist on Wednesday asking if there was published refereed journal articles on efficacy of materiel for twolined chestnut borer. Jason Oliver, University of Tennessee, sent me a reference to work that he and his co-workers published on this topic in September of 2010.

From Jason Oliver:

“We evaluated Safari for flatheaded apple borer management in red maple (see link below to HRI pub) in a 2010 published study. A single Safari application worked very well in the first year, but control did not carry into years 2, 3, and 4. Other neonics like imidacloprid do have mulit-year control with a single application, so I suspect the greater water solubility of Safari may have reduced carryover of control in subsequent years. Yearly applications would remedy this issue.

Product rate in test was 6 grams per tree. If I am reading the Safari 20 SG label correctly, field rate for FHAB control is anywhere from 3.99 to 10.63 g product per inch of trunk (based on label directions of add 12 to 24 oz product to one gallon and then apply 1.5 to 2 fl oz per inch of trunk diameter). That would put our rate about mid-range.”

<https://hrijournal.org/doi/abs/10.24266/0738-2898-28.3.135>

Spittlebugs

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found spittlebug nymphs beginning to feed under foam on *Chaemaecyparis nootkatensis* ‘Pendula’ this week. Two common spittlebugs in the area are pine spittlebugs and twolined spittlebugs. Adults do not produce spittle and quickly jump and fly if disturbed. Generally, it is not an insect that warrants control measures.

The spittlebug nymph produces the spittle
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Syrphid Fly Larva

Heather Zindash, IPM Scout, found a larva feeding on woolly aphids on *Ulmus americana* 'Princeton' in Baltimore County. It is the larval stages of syrphid flies that are predacious. The larvae vary in size and color patterns depending on life stage and species. The larvae are often a light greenish to white color with other color patterns on their bodies. The larvae have hook-like mouthparts that they jab into their prey to assist in the feeding process. Syrphid fly larvae are important generalist predators that help to suppress many of herbaceous insects common on ornamental plants. Find out more information in the [May 1, 2015 Beneficial of the Week article](#) by Paula Shrewsbury.



Syrphid (aka hover) fly larvae are good generalist predators and are often found feeding on aphids
Photo: Heather Zindash, IPM Scout

Leafcutter Bees in an Unusual Place

Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts, reported that "I was checking out a potted plant on my deck recently and noticed "leaves" sticking out of the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. They were neatly wrapped and tucked in the soil at the base of the plant." Leafcutter bees line their nest cavity (in this case a plant pot) and separate it into cells with circular leaf sections that they cut from various plants. A leafcutter nest looks a bit like a cigar. Usually, the damage they cause is not significant. Since they are a very important pollinators of many plants, it is best to tolerate the damage.



Leafcutter bee nests were found in plant pots on a backyard deck
Photos: Marty Adams, Bartlett Tree Experts

Assassin Bug Hatch

This week, Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found assassin bugs that recently hatched in Frederick County. Assassin bugs are good generalist predators. An assassin bug inserts its mouthparts into prey and liquefies the internal contents of the insect. It then sucks out the fluids with its straw-like mouthpart.



Assassin bugs are good generalist predators
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury and Mike Raupp

Piercing-sucking mouthpart – a good tool for sucking insect guts!

Last week, Dr. Raupp and I were out looking at plants for insects that might be doing interesting things. To our excitement, we came across a [predacious stink bug sucking the life out of a thistle tortoise beetle](#). I did feel a little bad for the leaf beetle but I did not interfere... it is all part of the circle of life. This particular stink bug was the spined soldier bug as indicated by the diagnostic points or spines found on each "shoulder" of the pronotum (section behind the head) (see image). Stink bugs belong to a group of insects referred to as true bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) in the family Pentatomidae. Within the stink bug family some species are herbivores (pests) and others are predators (good guys). Spined soldier bug, *Podisus maculiventris*, is one of the good guys, a generalist predator which feeds on a variety of insects (over 90 species). Most commonly spined shoulder bugs attack caterpillars and beetle adults and larvae. Spined soldier bugs are stealthy predators that have an uncanny way of sneaking up on a potential victim, extending their piercing-sucking mouthpart and jabbing it into the prey, rendering the victim helpless before it can escape. Predatory stink bugs inject digestive enzymes through their beak to pre-digest the victim's tissues before activating a pump in their head to imbibe the liquid nutrients of their unlucky victim. [Click here](#) to see a video of an unfortunate tomato hornworm who not only had deadly parasitic wasps emerge from their cocoons lining the back of the caterpillar, but a spined soldier bug stopped by to finish off the already mostly dead hornworm.



P. M. Shrewsbury

The piercing-sucking mouthpart of the spined shoulder bug sucks the life out this thistle tortoise beetle (a species of leaf beetle). Note the diagnostic spines or points on each "shoulder" of the pronotum of the well named spined shoulder bug.

Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD

Spined soldier bugs are predacious as nymphs and adults. Adults are just under $\frac{1}{2}$ " in size and a brownish gray in color. They have the typical stink bug "shield shape" and points on the pronotum as described above (see image). Early instar nymphs have black heads and red and black bodies and tend to be gregarious. Later instar

nymphs are mottled brown, white, and black in color and are no longer gregarious, going off on their own to hunt their food. Spined soldier bugs are reported to have 2-3 generations a season and overwinter as adults in this area. All stink bug eggs have a typical “barrel-shape” with a noticeable “rim” at the top of the barrel. Stink bugs, in general lay their eggs in clusters and the average number of eggs in each egg mass varies by stink bug species. The eggs vary in color and the rim may or may not have spines depending on the stink bug species. Eggs of spined soldier bug are “barrel-shaped”, a golden bronze color, and laid in clusters of 20 – 70 eggs often on the underside of leaves but not always. The eggs have very noticeable “spines” along the rim (see the image). All of these

identifying characteristics indicate an egg mass of the predatory spined soldier bug. An interesting and recently researched phenomena about the spined soldier bugs eggs, is that the female adult can selectively control the color of her eggs and the color she chooses (light or dark colored) depends on color or reflectiveness of the substrate the eggs are laid on (ex. upper vs lower leave). The researchers, Dr. Paul Abrams and his group from Canada, found that spined soldier bug tends to lay dark eggs on the top of leafs and light eggs on the underside. They hypothesize that this phenomena takes place because darker eggs are more resistant to UV radiation. Very cool!

Spined soldier bugs are well known voracious predators of many important agricultural pests such as Mexican bean beetle, European corn borer, and Colorado potato beetle. They have been imported and released in several European countries to help manage pests of agricultural crops.

So... when you come across a stink bug be sure to determine if it is a predator or pest before you decide to kill it.



A predatory adult spined soldier bug with its piercing-sucking mouthpart poked into the head of a tussock moth caterpillar.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD



A close up image of a spined soldier bug egg mass on a leaf. Note the barrel shaped eggs which are characteristic of most stink bug eggs. Specific characteristics of spined soldier bug eggs are the metallic bronze color and spines along the “rim” of the egg.
Photo: A. Jones, UMD

Weed of the Week

By: Chuck Schuster, UME

I have seen a good amount of thistle showing itself during the last week. Remember this plant is a noxious weed and is required to be managed. In some locations, I saw good examples of the bloom, which means that seed dissemination is close behind. One landscaper called to let me know that they thought it should be this week’s weed, but I will hold it for another week. Temperatures are warm and with the soil still being moist to wet, weed growth is dynamic. In some landscapes this week’s weed seems to be taking over.

Catchweed bedstraw, *Galium aparine* L., is a winter or sometimes summer annual that can be found throughout the United States. Catchweed bedstraw will produce an almost flat mat that will climb over other vegetation

(photo 4). It has square stems with a backwards facing prickle on the four corners of the stem and on leaves (photo 3). These prickles allow this plant to cling to other plants for support. The leaves have hairs on the upper surface, are lanceolate in shape, are sessile (attached directly to the stem) in whorls of six to eight, and found at nodes with a rough margin (photo 5). The plant reproduces primarily by seed, which germinate over a long period of time as moisture and temperatures permit. Flowers are produced starting in late May, on a stalk with 4 petals and are white in color (photo 2). The flowers are small, about 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch across.

There are no known biological control methods for this plant. It seems to prefer all types of growing conditions, including out of asphalt (photo 1). In landscape settings, it is an easy to pull weed, but consideration should be given to do this before it goes to seed. In turf, it will thrive in taller mowed settings. This plant when found in an undesired setting can be controlled using the following options. Many post emergent broadleaf product will work including oxyfluorfen (Goal), Quinclorac, carfentrazone (Quicksilver) with good results and Dicamba, and Three-way selective providing fair results. Remember to use a surfactant to get the best results. Use caution with using post emergent broadleaf products in landscapes as some of these products can move downward in the soil and be absorbed by plant roots of desired species, or can volatilize and move causing damage to desirable species of plants. In landscape and nursery settings, the use of oxyfluorfen (Goal) will be effective as a pre-emergent/ early post emergent product. Non-selective products used in landscapes will include products can include Prizefighter, which contains Ammonium Nonanoate, and is registered as organic. This product works well on annual weeds but not perennial weeds. Other products will include glyphosate based products but caution should be considered with these products to avoid contact with any roots or suckers of desired plant species.



Photo 1: Catchweed bedstraw can also be found growing in asphalt



Photo 2: Catchweed bedstraw starts producing flowers in May



Photo 3: Stems are square



Photo 4: Catchweed bedstraw often grows over other vegetation



Photo 5: Catchweed bedstraw leaves have rough margins

All Photos: Chuck Schuster, UME

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Hydrangea quercifolia, oak leaf hydrangea, is a large shrub growing 6-8 feet tall and wide and is often considered a bit rough around the edges. Like many of our native shrubs, oak leaf hydrangeas have a strong tendency to sprout suckers to create a small grove. The dwarf varieties are smaller, fitting into most sunny or partly sunny gardens and have less of that tendency to sucker. *H. quercifolia* 'Pee Wee' can grow 3-4 feet tall and wide with smaller leaves and panicles of flowers than the species. Plants grow upright and hold their flower panicles above the foliage. *H. 'Pee Wee'* has white flowers that provide color and texture in the garden for 6-8 weeks as they go from pure white to pink and then brown in late summer. The mostly sterile flowers are arranged on a cone-shaped panicle which mature to brown seeds. Plants grow best in moist but well drained slightly acidic soil with a light application of mulch for moisture retention. Hardy from USDA zones 5-9, the plants have dark brown exfoliating bark, giving the gardens winter interest. The leaves have 3-7 lobes and are dark green during the summer months but in the autumn *H. 'Pee Wee'* leaves turn purple, bronze and/or maroon in color. *H. quercifolia* 'Munchkin' is another dwarf created at the U.S. National Arboretum. *H. 'Munchkin'* is also compact at 3-4 feet tall, with 6-6.5 inch upright panicles of white flowers that bloom for 6-8 weeks, gradually fading to a soft pink. The foliage turns a reddish mahogany color in the autumn. *H. quercifolia* 'Little Honey' grows 3-4 feet tall, but has a wider spread of 4-5 feet. The leaves are large compared to most of the compact dwarfs, expanding to 4-7 inches long with deep lobes. When the leaves first emerge they are a soft golden yellow which fades into chartreuse, then green by late summer, crimson red in the autumn. The cone-shaped panicles of flowers are up to 5 inches long and bloom in the early summer, but this variety also has sporadic flowers through the late summer. Another plus for 'Little Honey' are the red stems in the chilly winter time. *H. quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers' is a very colorful compact dwarf oakleaf hydrangea, growing 3-4 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide, but instead of white flowers, the 'Ruby Slippers' has light pink blooms that mature into reddish magenta colors. The large panicles of flowers are sturdily upright even in heavy rains, and the dark green foliage turns a burgundy color in the fall. *H. quercifolia* blooms on mature growth, so pruning should be kept to a minimum for shaping and removing dead branches. Pests include deer, some powdery mildew and the occasional aphid and spider mite. All of the dwarf oakleaf varieties can be used as specimens or massed together to create a casual hedge or as a part of a foundation planting.



Dwarf cultivars of *Hydrangea quercifolia* fit well in small, sunny to partly sunny spaces
Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION NEEDED for the PEST PREDICTIVE CALENDAR - PLEASE HELP!

We need information on the timing of activity of the susceptible life stages for key pest insects (ex. first crawler activity of gloomy scale, obscure scale, and magnolia scale; egg hatch of caterpillars; or first activity of two-spotted spider mite). With this information, we can increase the usefulness of our UME [Pest Predictive Calendar](#)

When reporting insects for the IPM report, please be sure to also include the following: Date, Location (city, state), insect stage (if known), and plant host. If you are unsure of the stage or species identification, please get a sample to us. You can mail it to: Stanton Gill, CMREC, 11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD, 21042 OR Nancy Harding, 4291 Fieldhouse Drive, 4112 Plant Sciences Building, Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 20742.

Degree Days (as of June 5)

Abingdon (C1620)	909
Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	1179
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	1026
College Park (KCGS)	960
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	989
Frederick (KFDK)	994
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	1090
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	940
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	813
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	882
Natl Arboretum.Reagan Natl (KDCA)	1228
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	1045
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	1151
Westminster (KDMW)	1067

Important Note: We are using the [Online Phenology and Degree-Day Models](#) site. Use the following information to calculate GDD for your site: Select your location from the map Model Category: All models Select Degree-day calculatorThresholds in: Fahrenheit °F Lower: 50 Upper: 95 Calculation type: simple average/growing dds Start: Jan 1

MDA Container Recycling Program

See the [MDA brochure](#) for locations and dates for the 2019 MDA Container Recycling Program

CONFERENCES

Procrastinators' Pesticide Recertification Conference

June 14, 2019

Location: Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD

Registration and schedule are available at

<https://24th-procrastinatorsconference.eventbrite.com/>

Maryland Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Location: Taylor Sines Woodlake Tree Farm, Oakland, MD

For more info contact: Joncie.Underwood@410.398.1882

All Day Session on Herbaceous Perennials

July 25, 2019

Location: The Perennial Farm in Glen Arm, MD

Registration info will be posted at the [MNLGA calendar](#) site when available

Green Industry Professional Field Day and Trade Show

July 18, 2019, 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: American University | 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016

Presented by [PGMS DC Branch](#), NVNLA, VA Cooperative Extension, and in cooperation with the MAC-ISA

LCA Plant Diagnostic Program

August 14, 2019

More details will be posted later

CONTRIBUTORS:



Stanton Gill
Extension Specialist
sgill@umd.edu
410-868-9400 (cell)



Paula Shrewsbury
Extension Specialist
pshrewsb@umd.edu



Karen Rane
Plant Pathologist
rane@umd.edu



Chuck Schuster
Extension Educator
cfs@umd.edu



David Clement
Plant Pathologist
clement@umd.edu



Andrew Ristvey
Extension Specialist
ristvey@umd.edu



Ginny Rosenkranz
Extension Educator
rosnkranz@umd.edu



Nancy Harding
Faculty Research
Assistant

Joe Roberts, Plant Pathologist (Turf)
robertsj@umd.edu

Thank you to the Maryland Arborist Association, the Landscape Contractors Association of MD, D.C. and VA, the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, Professional Grounds Management Society, and FALCAN for your financial support in making these weekly reports possible.

Photos are by Suzanne Klick or Stanton Gill unless stated otherwise.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by University of Maryland Extension is implied.

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.