

**Commercial Horticulture**

**Special Alert: February 3, 2020**

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[Pest Predictive Calendar](#)



**IPMnet**  
**Integrated Pest**  
**Management for**  
**Commercial Horticulture**  
[extension.umd.edu/ipm](http://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](mailto:sklick@umd.edu)

**Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:**

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**Impact of Current Weather**

By: Stanton Gill

Well, Groundhog Day (February 2) came and went, and Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow. This year is only the 20th time this situation has happened in the 120 recorded years of this event. It means we are supposed to be in for an early end of winter.

Then again, in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia they use Lucy the Lobster. Lucy is extracted from the ocean and placed on a lobster cage. If she sees her shadow, then it is 6 more weeks of winter. Guess what, Lucy Lobster says it is 6 more weeks of cold.

In Texas, where they say they don't need to rely on a Pennsylvania rodent, they use an armadillo named "Bee Cave Bob" of Bee Cave, Texas (outside of Austin). Anyhow, if he hangs outside and does not go back into his home, it means an early end to winter.



**Plum 'Ruby Queen' showing green tip on February 3, 2020 in Federalsburg**  
**Photo: Richard Uva, Seaberry Farm**

NOAA really has no long range prediction either way. They did record that January was 7 degrees warmer than the previous two years. It is supposed to reach 60 °F today and continue with warm weather through Wednesday. We have a grower on the Eastern Shore reporting plum and quince blooms are swelling and showing some color this week. I contacted the fruit plant pathologist, Kari Peter, at Penn State Experiment Station in Biglerville, PA and asked if fruit trees start to swell and stand up or show color should fixed copper applications be applied. Her response - YES.

If you have customers for whom you take care of their apricots, cherries, or peaches or you have nursery stock which includes fruit trees, then read on for suggestions of fixed copper applications that Kari recommends.

## **Dormant Sprays to Manage Fungal and Bacterial Diseases**

(This [article](#) from **March 19, 2019** is also available online at the Penn State website)

By: Kari Peter. Associate Professor, Penn State, PA State Biglerville Experimental Station report

Growers are encouraged to apply dormant copper sprays on apples and pears for fire blight and scab, and on peaches (and other stone fruit) for bacterial spot and peach leaf curl. Since peach leaf curl can only be managed when leaves are off the trees, applications should be made before bud swell. If using copper, growers will want to aim for 2 lb/A of metallic copper: pay attention to the % metallic copper equivalent (and amount of metallic copper per unit) listed on the label of the copper you use. Also, during dormant sprays, it is okay to mix oil and copper. Since minimal green tissue is present, the risk of phytotoxicity from the copper-oil mix is very low. Consequently, the emergence of green tissue will want to be monitored when this combination spray is used. There is still time to get rid of overwintering scabby leaves

As a matter of principle, we began to monitor our overwintering leaves with apple scab for spore release last week, and no spores have been detected. This was expected since ascospore release from infected leaves typically coincides with green tip. So far, green tip hasn't occurred. Fingers crossed it won't happen for another month... There is still time to keep apple scab in check if you haven't done so already. Apple scab can be managed by reducing the number of available overwintering spores in last year's leaves present in the orchard through sanitation. Remember: orchards are self-infecting when it comes to scab since spores can travel about 100 feet.

### **Options for reducing spores:**

Apply urea sprays (40 pounds per 100 gallons of water per acre) to the orchard floor including the sod row middles. Spores need leaf tissue to survive, and urea helps the breakdown of the tissue thereby eliminating the food source for the spores. If urea is applied, your spring nitrogen applications need to be reduced based on the amount of urea applied to the tree rows.

Shred leaf litter using a flail mower or remove leaf litter by raking, sweeping, or vacuuming. Shredding leaf litter assists the decay of the plant material, as well as aids in the reorienting the leaves, thereby disrupting ascospore discharge. Leaf litter can still be shredded if urea had been used, too. This will aid in the breakdown of the leaf tissue more.

### **Remove mummified fruit from trees while pruning:**

While growers are finishing up their winter pruning, it is very important to remove any mummified fruit hanging in the trees. This is especially critical for brown rot in stone fruit trees. Mummified fruit left hanging in the trees will become spore factories during the season and cause infection on blossoms and fruit. Fungicides can be overwhelmed with such high inoculum pressure. Consequently, sanitation is important for fruit rot prevention.

## **Innovative Lawn Care Conference**

Addressing the New Montgomery County Pesticide Ban on Turf  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** The Universities at Shady Grove, Gaithersburg, Maryland

**Coordinating with Maryland's Turf and Green Industry Associations**

**6 CEUs for Maryland Categories 3A, 3C, 10, and PVT**

[extension.umd.edu/ipm/conferences](https://extension.umd.edu/ipm/conferences)

### **CONFERENCES**

#### **February 5, 2020**

Eastern Shore Pest Management Conference  
Location: The Fountains, Salisbury, MD

#### **February 13, 2020**

2020 Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Conference  
Location: Rockville, Maryland  
Organized by and registration through LCA

#### **February 19 and 20, 2020**

Chesapeake Green: A Horticulture Symposium  
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD  
Organized by and registration through MNLGA

#### **February 27, 2020**

Innovative Lawn Care Conference  
Location: UMD Campus at Shady Grove

#### **February 28, 2020**

Manor View Farm & Perennial Farm 21st Annual Education Seminar  
Location: Shepard Pratt Conference Center, Timonium, MD

### **Links to Conference Schedules and Registration Details**

<https://extension.umd.edu/ipm/conferences>

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