

## Commercial Horticulture

**Special Alert: March 5, 2020**

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

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

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### Early Insect Activity

By: Stanton Gill

January was 7 degrees above normal and now February was recorded by NOAA as being 6 degrees above normal. Many landscape managers are sending in pictures of forsythia, daffodils, and hellebores in bloom.

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, reported heavy aphid activity on hellebores in Montgomery County on February 24. She noted that aphids were high on these plants in March 2016 as well and damage was heavy that year. Marie is also reporting that parasitic wasp mummies are already showing up on the plants.

Several people have asked about ambrosia beetle activity. We placed out baited alcohol traps at CMREC 2 weeks ago and so far no activity. We will send out a special alert if we find beetles in the traps.

On Monday, February 24 while visiting a nursery site that is located along the Potomac River, I saw dozens of adult stoneflies landing on plants and covering the sides of a building. Stoneflies are some of the earliest insects we usually see active in the season. They are harmless and just another indication of a warm winter.

If temperatures reach 50 - 55 °F for 3 - 5 days in a row, then you can apply your dormant rate horticultural oil.



**Aphids are already active on hellebores (above); look for aphid mummies indicating parasitoid activity (right)**  
Photos: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



## Armored Scale on Ornamental Grass

By: Stanton Gill

We would like perennial growers to be alert and watch for an armored scale on ornamental grasses. Heather Zindash, IPM Scout, found an armored scale on *Acorus gramineus* 'Variegatus' ornamental grass in a hoop house in Baltimore County. This armored scale is *Duplachionaspis divergens* and has been reported on miscanthus and pennisetum grasses. The armored scale is fairly common in Florida. It should be a warm climate armored scale, but it can overwinter in hoop houses and with such a mild winter we may be seeing more of this scale cropping up.

If you find this scale on ornamental grasses, please send in a sample to me at CMREC, 11975 Homewood Road Ellicott City, MD.



**A scale, *Duplachionaspis divergens*, was found infesting *Acorus gramineus* 'Variegatus' being grown in a hoop house**  
Heather Zindash, IPM Scout

## 2020 MDA Pesticide Container Recycling Program

The brochure for the pesticide container recycling program is available at:

<https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/2020-Pesticide-Container-Recycling-Schedule.pdf>

## CONFERENCES

### March 18, 2020

Spotted Lanternfly Workshop

Location: Washington County Agricultural Center,  
Boonsboro, MD

### June 3, 2020

Eastern Shore Pesticide Recertification Program

Location: Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD

### Save the Dates for the IPM Scouts' 4-Day Training Program:

June 2 and 4, 2020 at the Gary J Arthur Community Center, Glenwood, MD

June 9, 2020 at Ruppert Nursery, Laytonsville, MD

June 10, 2020 at Cavano's Perennials, Kingsville, MD

### Links to Conference Schedules and Registration Details

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

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