

Commercial Horticulture

Special Alert: March 18, 2020

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Ambrosia Beetle Activity

By: Stanton Gill

We are sending out this special report on ambrosia beetle activity. I asked fellow entomologist, Dr. Peter Schultz, who is retired and living in Virginia Beach to let us know of any ambrosia beetle activity in his area. They are usually about 10 -14 days ahead of us with the warmer weather. Pete put out traps at the Virginia Tech Experiment Station and at his house, which is closer to the beach.

Pete sent me an email on Monday and here is what he reported from the Virginia Beach area: "Collected about a dozen *Xylosandrus crassisculus* today, 3/16, with assorted other catch. Trap was checked mid-day Friday and had one *X. crassisculus*. Traps at my house had a few *X. crassisculus* beetles today. House location is closer to the ocean, hence cooler and breezier. Temperatures reached 70 °F on Tuesday and exceeded 70F (78F at airport) on Friday afternoon, 3/13. The next day above 70 °F is forecasted for this Friday. And 2 of the 24 redbuds I set aside for trials next month had one attack each, likely on Friday."

A trap sample from Pope Farm in Derwood was sent to our lab on Friday and they had one *Xyleborinus alni*. We checked our alcohol baited traps here at the research center on Wednesday morning and found one *X. alni*. Nothing was found when we checked it in the afternoon. This ambrosia beetle is not one of the major ones that we generally worry about. Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found one ambrosia beetle (no species ID) in a trap in Montgomery County today. The three beetle species we are watching out for are *Xylosandrus germanus*,

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

X. crassiusculus, and *Cnestus mutilatus*. It is supposed to reach 70 °F by Friday, but it rapidly cools off for the following 4 -5 days. This Friday we may get a mini-spike of activity, but if it occurs it should drop off rapidly with the cool front coming in.

I will put out another update with our first regular IPM alert on Friday. If you see activity, contact me at Sgill@umd.edu. I will need to see the specimen(s) you catch to confirm the identification.

UMD Plant Diagnostic Laboratory COVID-19 Announcement (3/18/2020)

Due to the University of Maryland College Park response to COVID-19, the UMD Plant Diagnostic Laboratory is not able to receive plant samples at this time. Buildings on campus are locked, and packages sent through carriers such as UPS, FedEx and USPS will not be delivered to the lab.

If you need plant diagnostic services, please **DO NOT** send samples to the clinic. Contact me via email (rane@umd.edu) with photos of the plants in question, and I will do my best to answer your concerns. Photos for diagnosis should include at least one overall picture of the site or crop, as well as close-ups of the plants and symptoms in question. Please make sure the photos are in focus for the best chance of diagnosing plant problems. Include a description of the problem, as well as any spray applications made in the past 4 weeks.

We will contact you if there is a change in this procedure. Thank you for your patience as we deal with this unprecedented situation.

-Karen Rane, Director, UMD Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

Red-headed Flea Beetle

The red-headed flea beetle has become a major problem for several nursery growers. This pest is very hard to control once you get it into a nursery. Shimat V. Joseph, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Georgia Department of Entomology, put a grant together to have entomologists and nursery owners work together to try to develop new strategies to deal with this insect. I will be working with this group of entomologists over the next two years. We have a planning meeting in Atlanta in July, and I need your input. If your nursery has experienced problems with the red-headed flea beetle, can you contact me? I need to know what plants are severely impacted. Which controls have you tried and which ones have worked or not worked? This working group is trying to figure out what gaps we have in knowledge to control this pest. Your input will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me at 410-868-9400 or Sgill@umd.edu.

Thanks – Stanton Gill

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

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

June 20, 2020 (Saturday)

Maryland Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting
Cawley Family Farm, Denton, MD
For info contact Joncie Underwood
Maryland CTA@outlook.com

Regarding UMD Extension activities, we do not know at this time if the Coronavirus Covid-19 will impact these programs scheduled for later in the year.

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