UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TPM/IPM Weekly Report

for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

Commercial Horticulture — November 24, 2020

In This Issue...

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 sgill@umd.edu

Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:
Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist, IPM and Entomology for Nursery, Greenhouse and Managed Landscapes, sgill@umd.edu. 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) and David Clement (Extension Specialist)
Weed of the Week: Chuck Schuster (Retired Extension Educator)
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)

Bagworms in December

By: Stanton Gill

Neith Little, UME - Baltimore City, sent in a picture of bagworms overwintering on her arborvitae. At this time of year, it looks like a seasonal evergreen decoration. The silk that is wrapped around the branch is thick, and if you try to pull it off, it will likely break the branch. If you want to remove the bags, take your hand pruners with you to snip the silk and avoid breaking the branches.

Note where bagworms are this fall and monitor these sites closely next June to treat when caterpillars hatch
Photo: Neith Little, UME Extension

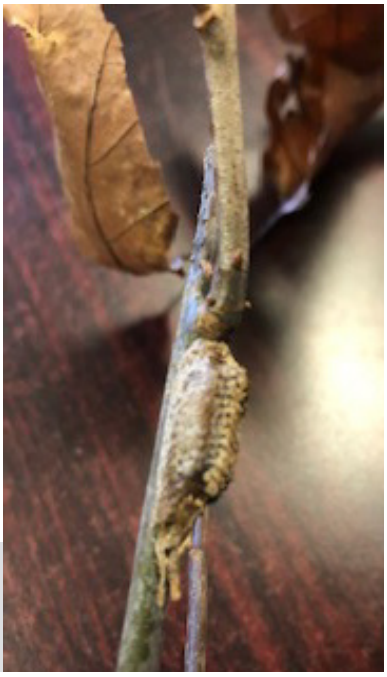
Watch Your Equipment

By: Stanton Gill

One of the landscape companies called last week to let us know they left a $60,000 skid loader at a job site overnight. Someone, with a large trailer, stole it during the night. Chuck Schuster also reports that some farms are reporting equipment being stolen just east of the Libertytown area. Make sure your equipment is secure, locked down in some way, and hidden away. Some people have installed tracking devices on their loaders and other large equipment which is not a bad idea.

Carolina Praying Mantid Egg Masses

Jeanne Kavinski found a Carolina praying mantid egg mass on a red oak. The eggs will hatch next year in late spring. As you do pruning this fall and winter, keep an eye for these egg masses.



This Carolina praying mantid egg case was found on a red oak; while pruning and cleaning up this fall, look for Carolina and Chinese praying mantid egg cases Photo: Jeanne Kavinski

Licensed Tree Experts

From: Marian Honeczy, Maryland DNR

The department has launched a press campaign to educate the public regarding unlicensed tree care workers.

Check out the Facebook post. Like, share and post comments. Here's your chance to start a conversation about your industry. Attached is yesterday's (Thursday) Facebook post. Go to Facebook and search Dept of Natural Resources. It should pop up.

DNR website: https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/11/19/marylanders-reminded-to-hire-licensed-tree-experts/

Marylanders Reminded to Hire Licensed Tree Experts
https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2020/11/20/marylanders-reminded-to-hire-licensed-tree-experts/

Drone Successes

By: Stanton Gill

Kirk Floyd, Kdrone Services, sent in these pictures of daikon radish coming up between corn stubbles. The drone was used to custom apply daikon radish seed in September to farm fields to help prevent erosion. This is just another good example of how useful a tool drones are in agriculture.

This field of Daikon radish was sown via a drone
Photos: Andy Kness, UMD Extension

Beech Blight Aphid and Weird Sooty Mold

By: Stanton Gill

Larry Hurley, formerly of Behnke Nurseries in Beltsville sent in these interesting pictures of something he saw on beech trees.

Here is his email message: “I was walking at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge today with Alfred Millard; two Behnke guys trying to stay connected to nature. Saw this on a beech tree”

From Karen Rane who recognized it right away. “This is actually the beech sooty mold, called *Scorias spongiosa*, which grows exclusively on the honeydew from the beech blight aphid, *Grylioprociphilus imbricator*.”

This one very interesting aphid, which was on the beech earlier in the season. The beech blight aphid, *Grylloprociphilus imbricator,* is a light bluish color but it groups together by the hundreds on the twigs, small branches, and the undersides of foliage primarily of the American beech, *Fagus grandifolia*. Populations can become obvious as early as July, but by September and October, they can be spectacular. Infested beech trees can appear to have branches covered with snow. This aphid species will move en masse when disturbed and for this reason it is often called the "Boogie-Woogie Aphid".

This aphid species can produce huge amounts of honeydew. The honeydew is expelled as waste onto the branches, foliage, understory plants, and the ground below. Certain fungi known as the sooty molds then colonize this honeydew and turn the substrate black. Oftentimes, given large populations of aphids, this sooty

mold can be very thick and almost tar-like. As Karen pointed out a certain sooty mold grows called the beech sooty mold, called *Scorias spongiosa.* The mass of this sooty mold looks like a black sponge, which is what Larry saw on the beech tree.

This sooty mold fungus, *Scorias spongiosa*, grows only on the honeydew produced by beech blight aphids
Photos: Larry Hurley

Pruning Figs

By: Stanton Gill

2020 was a pretty good year for most fig growers since the winter of was so mild in January and February with little winter damage in many sites. We harvested a very heavy crop at our orchard in Westminster with Chicago hardy and Brown turkey. One of my students from Montgomery College asked me to help them prune their fig tree that was over 14 ft tall. Generally, I wait until the end of winter to prune so we can see how much wood was winter killed. In this case, the fig was getting way too tall for them to harvest and the trunks were way too thick to bend easily. We started by bringing the height down to around 6 feet. Branches that were crossing were removed, and sucker shoots arising from the base were removed. We also thinned out some of the other trunks that were thick and hard to bend. To protect the branches from winter injury we bend the branches as low to the ground as possible for winter and cover these branches with a heavy felted cloth in December. We put weights on the felt covering to hold the branches down. In Minnesota, some growers tie the flexible branches together using rope. They then dig a trench next to the figs and bend the branches and bury the stems for the winter then pop them back up in spring. My friends in Minnesota report this method works well.

The new season (2020) wood is what will bear the fruit next year in 2021 season. We shortened many of these branches since they had grown 5 – 7 ft during the season. With my figs, I usually shorten this new growth during the summer to get the fig to side branch and produce more productive wood for the next season. The

thick stem new growth bears the best crop. The thinner branches are shortened back to 4 – 6" since these will bear the early season breba crop (first crop of summer) of figs in mid-summer.

My student called after the pruning was finished to ask if the wood could be used for smoking food in his grill. Keep in mind fig sap is latex based and some people develop a rash when the sap comes in contact with the skin. It is advisable to wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when cutting fresh fig wood. Once the wood is seasoned, the sap is not as great as a concern. Seasoned fig wood has a spicy aroma when burned and some say that it smells like cinnamon.

I will be teaching a 2-credit class starting on February 11, 2021, which will be online, with Montgomery College, Landscape Technology Program. The class will be Thursday evening from 6:00 – 8:30. The spring schedule is still being worked on by the college but you can send me an email and I will send along how and when to register.

Urban Tree Summit - December 2, 2020 (On-line Event)

Presented by Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County, MD and Casey Trees, Washington D.C.
Registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montgomery-parks-and-casey-trees-tickets-121720670803?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch. Presentations will focus on the health and welfare of trees in our increasingly developed landscapes. Learn from some of the country's leading experts about innovative efforts to plant, protect and preserve trees in urban and suburban settings. We encourage all arborists, landscape industry and environmental/green industry professionals, engineers, designers, housing developers, and interested citizens to take advantage of this opportunity to learn new techniques and concepts on what can be done to ensure the survival of trees in our built environment

UMD Extension Solar Energy Webinars

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. until December 2. Find out more details on the UMD Extension web page.

2021 Virtual Advanced Landscape IPM PHC Short Course

This is a recertification short course for arborists, landscape managers, IPM consultants, professional gardeners, and others responsible for urban plant management.
Dates: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; January 5, 6 and 7 AND January 12, 13, and 14, 2021 (This is one course, so you can NOT register for individual days. Re-certification credits are based on attendance all six days.). Lecture times are 7:45 am – 11:00 am
Location: This is a **VIRTUAL** (online) short course offered by the Department of Entomology, University of Maryland. Attendees must have a computer with video and audio capabilities to participate.
Contact: Amy Yaich, Admin. Assist. II, 301-405-3911, umdentomology@umd.edu
Registration Information: https://landscapeipmphc.weebly.com/

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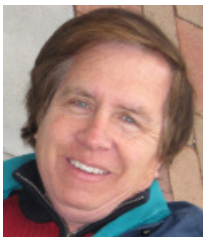
CONTRIBUTORS:



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Thank you to the Maryland Arborist Association, the Landscape Contractors Association of MD, D.C. and VA, the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse 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.