

Commercial Horticulture

February 12, 2021

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**Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:**

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**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)

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**Aphids**

By: Stanton Gill

Dan Gilrein, Cornell University Extension on Long Island, wrote an article for [eGRO Electronic Grower Resources](#) on an aphid species showing up with greater frequency in greenhouses and landscapes. One that Dan reported from New York on *Helleborus* is hellebore aphid (*Macrosiphum hellebori*). It is a rather large greenish aphid, that he suggests possibly arrived from Europe. Dan reported that in New York the honeydew on leaves drew attention to the aphids beneath, but otherwise there was no visible impact on the plants. In the spring of 2020, with the onslaught of the Covid-19, landscapers sent me pictures of hellebore leaves with a lot of honeydew and high aphid populations on the undersides of the leaves. I couldn't get any samples at that point since our CMREC office/lab was closed. The groundhog in PA saw his shadow last week so I guess we are in for 6 more weeks of winter. Meteorologists are reporting that this cold period will continue to the end of February. When spring finally arrives, hellebores will be actively growing throughout the state. If you find aphids in heavy populations on your customer's plants or if you are a perennial nursery and find this aphid, please send me some leaves so I can see if this is the same aphid species that Dan is reporting in NY.

Dan also reported on the lily aphid. I did see a rising population of lily aphids in 2020 in Maryland on potted and field grown hybrid lilies. It is bright yellow with distinct markings on its abdomen. If you see aphids on lilies, please send me samples for ID. Contact me at Sgill@umd.edu with any questions.

**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  
sgill@umd.edu

## Sapsucker Damage

By: Stanton Gill and Karen Rane

Back in mid-January of 2021, we received a picture of tree with large wounds on the trunk. The owner said the damage was fresh and had just occurred recently. Back in April of 2020, we received a similar picture from Abigail Evans of Ladew Topiary Gardens that she sent in to Karen Rane and myself. Abigail's plant was a viburnum with large wounds on the trunk.

We received similar pictures in the late winter and spring of 2019 and 2018. This type of injury was most commonly reported on leatherleaf viburnum, Chinese holly, Deodora cedar, and red maples.

This distinct damage is caused by sapsuckers.

In most cases, it is the yellow-bellied sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*. The birds attack living wood to get at the sap in the cambium. The feeding can kill a tree by girdling. The yellow-bellied sapsuckers are listed and protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. During the nesting season in spring and summer, insects comprise about half the diet of the adults. During the late fall and early winter, sap is the primary food of choice. December and January were relatively mild, and many of the sapsuckers did not migrate south, remaining in the Maryland area. Cambium is taken throughout the year, although it is primarily eaten during the winter and spring.



Sapsucker damage on sugar maple

Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Some favorite deciduous trees that they hit include *Betula papyrifera*, *Acer rubrum*, *Viburnum*, and *Amelanchier*. You cannot predict on which trees they will feed so control with wire mesh or netting really is not practical in most cases. In addition, it is difficult to cover a trunk with many side branches. Prune off the branches above the wound. Fortunately, a leatherleaf viburnum will recover with new growth that will replace old damaged trunks. We had some landscapers report hanging reflective strips in trees hit in the past to deter the birds away from the tree. We had two different landscape managers' report this method worked well for them.



Crocus and hellebore in bloom in January 2021 in Salisbury  
Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

## **Wood that is Transparent and Stronger than Glass**

University of Maryland researchers, Qinjin Xia\*, Chaoji Chen\*, Tian Li, Shuaiming He, Jinlong Gao, Xizheng Wang and Liangbing just published an interesting article in the AAAS journal of Science Advances on January 21, 2021, Vol. 7, no. 5,. The article is entitled Solar-assisted fabrication of large-scale, patternable transparent wood.

In their journal article, they have found a way to make wood transparent so 90% of the light transmits through the wood. It is stronger than glass and does not shatter like glass. It is also lighter than glass. Others previously have worked on this process but this new method developed at the University of Maryland does not remove the lignin, like previous methods investigated by others. They developed methods to produce transparent wood by modifying the wood's lignin structure using solar assisted chemical brushing method. The pores are filled in with clear epoxy to give the wood a smooth surface. The authors report that a high level of light transmittance for 1 mm thickness of greater than 90% and excellent light guiding effect over the visible light spectrum.

Previous work by other researchers have made attempts at this goal but previous processes involved use of large quantities of chemicals and energy. The University of Maryland process is supposedly much simpler and more cost effective. The transparent wood has a higher insulation quality than most glass and has interesting potential for more energy efficient building components.

## **Advanced Level II - Natural Area Management Services Webinar Series: Grow Your Business**

In fall of 2020, The Woods In Your Backyard Partnership offered a multi-state program for Green Industry Professionals to gain knowledge and skills useful for providing additional services to clientele with small acreage properties. The Advanced Level II webinar series will provide four weeks of in-depth training with two evening webinars per week on the following topics: 1) wildlife habitat enhancement and conflicts; 2) residential riparian buffer installation and maintenance; 3) woodland health practices and harvesting; and 4) managing competing and invasive vegetation and non-herbicide controls.

A resource manual & specialized checklist tool have been developed for Green Industry professionals to determine which enhancement practices are suitable for the client's property. A certificate of completion provided for each webinar can be used to secure continuing education credits.

### **Webinar Series Details**

#### **Wildlife Week**

February 23, Tuesday – 7- 8:30 p.m. Creating and Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Speakers: Calvin Norman, Forestry Educator, Penn State Extension, and Luke Macaulay, Wildlife Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

February 25, Thursday – 7- 8:30 p.m. Dealing with Uninvited Guests: Addressing Wildlife Conflicts

Speaker: Jim Parkhurst, Wildlife Specialist, Virginia Tech

#### **Tree Planting and Water Week**

March 2, Tuesday – 7- 8:30 p.m. Installing a Residential Riparian Buffer

Speakers: Dave Wise, Watershed Restoration Manager, Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale, PA, and Lamonte Garber, Watershed Restoration Coordinator, Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale, PA

March 4, Thursday - 7- 8:30 p.m. Maintaining tree plantings: Riparian Buffers and Lawn Conversions

Speakers: To be announced and Matt Wright, Wright Environmental & Land Services, Hanover, PA

## **Woodland Management Week**

March 9, Tuesday – 7- 8:30 p.m. Applying Woodland Health Practices to Different Successional Stages

Speakers: Sarah Wurzbacher, Forestry Educator, Penn State Extension, and Jonathan Kays, Forestry Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

March 11, Thursday – 7- 8:30 p.m.

Woodland Management: Harvesting on Single or Multiple Properties

Speakers: Tom Robertson, Professional Forester, TR Land Forestry & Tree Company, Keymar, MD, and Rich Anacker, Logger, and Arborist, A&A Tree Experts, Pikesville, MD.

## **Vegetation Management Week**

March 16, Tuesday – 7- 8:30 p.m. Using Forest Herbicides To Control Competing and Invasive Vegetation

Speaker: Dave Jackson, Forestry Educator, Penn State Extension, and Art Gover, Wildland Weed Management Specialist, Penn State Extension

March 18, Thursday – 7- 8:30 p.m. Non-Herbicide Control and Efficacy of Competing Vegetation

Speakers: Katlin DeWitt, Forest Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Forestry, and Ginny Rosencrantz, Horticulture Educator, University of Maryland Extension

**For more information and to register check out: <https://nams-level2.eventbrite.com>**

## **Conferences**

Virtual FALCAN Pesticide Recertification Conference

March 12, 2021

When available, schedule and registration information will be posted at <http://www.falcanmd.com/>

LCA Winter Conference

Time frame: February 1 - 28, 2021

[Talks and Registration Information](#)

**IPMnet**  
**Integrated Pest Management for**  
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**[extension.umd.edu/ipm](http://extension.umd.edu/ipm)**

## IPM Report Index

The IPM report index has been updated to include 2020. It is available at <https://extension.umd.edu/ipm/landscape-and-nursery-ipm-alerts>

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