

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 6

INSECTS

Dewey Caron
Extension Entomologist

SCOUT NOW for three related hymenopterans - Carpenter bees, European sawfly and birch leafminer adults.

CARPENTER BEE males are present and establishing their territories. In some places they are so common they are confused for "swarming bees." Males (with the yellow faces) can't sting but are very persistent in fighting with potential rival males and they become aggressive and even chase people who attempt to get too close to their defended areas. They generally do not cause structural damage but with favorable nesting locations become very numerous over subsequent seasons.

I have not seen any EUROPEAN SAWFLIES but their hatch from overwintering egg masses was noted in mid-April by cooperators of the PA/DE IPM Research Group on both mugo and Japanese red pine. The larvae (which resemble caterpillars but are hymenopterans like bees and wasps) feed on last season's needles leading to a "poodle tail" or "bottle brush" appearance to hosts as they eliminate the older needles behind this season's newer growth. Spot spraying is effective after careful scouting to detect and treat all the well camouflaged feeding masses.

DISEASES

(Continued)

Bob Mulrooney
Extension Plant Pathologist

CEDAR-QUINCE RUST caused by the fungus *Gymnosporangium clavipes* was seen on *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Wichita Blue' this week. The orange-red swellings on the twigs were very evident. This same fungus infects groundcover junipers, *Juniperus horizontalis*, as well. On this host the swellings are often undetected and can persist for years. The galls are perennial on juniper and should be pruned out if possible. The alternate host is hawthorn, serviceberry, and several other rosaceous plants and causes deformed fruit and green twig dieback.

CEDAR-APPLE RUST. Be on the lookout as well for the round woody galls on twigs and branches of eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*. During wet weather orange-red spore horns emerge. These gelatinous appendages produce the spores that infect apple and crabapple leaves at this time of the year. The best control on cedar is to prune out the galls to the extent that is practical. These cedar-apple rust galls can be pretty spectacular for fungi-philes.

ENTOMOSPORIUM LEAFSPOT was seen on *Photinia x frazeri* or red-tip this week. These were the old spots from last year. If control is needed protect the new growth with a fungicide such as Daconil,

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Hemlocks are being barraged by pests as usual at this time of year. The overwintering stages of elongate hemlock scale have been reported on Canadian hemlocks. Hemlock woolly adelgid hatch has been reported at about 20% so far. It is best to wait until most of the eggs have hatched (usually mid-June) to spray for woolly adelgid. Finally, spruce spider mite is also hatching on Canadian hemlock. This is the cool weather mite with most of its damage occurring between March and June and then again from September through November. Since hemlocks suffer from a complex of different pests, horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps are often the best controls. These controls will reduce pest numbers and do less harm to beneficials. While Merit may be effective for woolly adelgid and elongate hemlock scale, it can cause an increase in spruce spider mite as it kills off beneficials that were keeping the spider mite under control.

It is not too late to cut back ornamental grasses in the landscape. It is best to cut back grasses in late winter or early spring before new growth emerges. Some warm season grasses still haven't started to grow this spring. But even if the new grass is emerging, since these plants are monocots and their growing tip is at the base of the plant, it is fine to cut back green tissue as long as you don't injure the crown. Leaves of grass still elongate even once the tips are cut (as we all know from our lawns).

For more information

on pests & practices covered in this

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

thiophanate-methyl or other labeled fungicide. This is the most common fungus disease of this plant and in most seasons disfigures the plant but does not harm it unless considerable defoliation takes place.

Be on the lookout for SPOT ANTHRACNOSE on flowers (bracts) of flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*. This is the first disease of the spring on this host. This fungus will produce very small (1/8 in.) spots with purple red borders. Spots can be numerous. During wet weather spores from the bracts can infect the leaves producing numerous small spots. This disease is mostly cosmetic but if necessary can be controlled with fungicide sprays of Daconil (chlorothalonil), myclobutanil (Eagle, Immunox), Heritage, Cleary's 3336 (thiophanate-methyl) and other labeled fungicides.

Insects (Continued)

BIRCH LEAFMINER adults were found this week on the expanding leaves of white birch. This is about a week later for their emergence and double the GDD's of other seasons in our scouting records. Adult females are "stinging" the new leaves and the eggs hatch to feed between the leaf surfaces causing leaf blotching, and eventual premature leaf drop. The plant then releafs at the expense of building more root and stem material leading to stunting and poor growth of hosts. New plants and heavily fertilized hosts are more likely to be attacked. Several materials will provide satisfactory control - control of 1st generation is important to reduce further damage and a larger second generation later this season.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

