

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

April 29, 2005

Issue 7

INSECTS

Gregory Hoover
Ornamental Extension Entomologist

PINE BARK ADELGID, *Pineus strobi*, is a common pest on eastern white pine. This insect is found throughout the native range of eastern white pine and sometimes found on Austrian and Scots pines. This species is native to Europe, and was unintentionally introduced into the United States on nursery stock in the early 1900s.

The overwintering life stage is the mature female. Females begin to lay eggs in early spring. The individuals from these eggs develop into both winged and wingless forms. All of these are females. This species reproduces by parthenogenesis (without the need of males for fertilization). The winged forms fly to spruce where they lay eggs. The nymphs from these eggs do not complete their development, and eventually die. The wingless forms continue to develop on white pine. Feeding is limited to the bark. If abundant, the pine bark adelgid may decrease the health of a small eastern white pine. Five generations are produced each year in the Mid-Atlantic States.

From a distance, the trunks of heavily infested white pines often appear to be whitewashed. When the white "wool" is pulled away from a mature pine bark adelgid, a black teardrop-shaped insect with short legs may be revealed.

Examine the bases of eastern white pine buds on small plants from late March through April for the presence of this insect. To manage this pest effectively on small trees, treat infested plants by selecting a registered formulation of horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or Merit applied according to label directions from late April through May when these insects are active, if indicated. Use a high-pressure spray of water to wash infestations of this insect off the trunks and branches of large eastern white pines.

DISEASES

Bob Mulrooney
Extension Plant Pathologist

CRABAPPLE SCAB was first observed in Newark on May 3. Secondary spores are being produced that will continue the disease when we have weather favorable for infection. Last weekend's showers provided plenty of opportunity for more infection. For homeowners, it's probably not too late for a fungicide application of Immunox on susceptible cultivars to provide some control. Commercially Banner MAXX, Systhane or other labeled triazole fungicide will also provide some control if applied soon.

(Continued)

What's Hot!

I know this is like preaching to the choir, but since I have defined one measure of success in my Cooperative Extension career as the elimination of mulch mounds, I want to leave no stone unturned and no audience unassailed. So, if your company participates in the heaping on of mulch around the base of trees in the spring--get them to stop! If you know people who participate in this practice--spread the word that mulch mounds harm trees. Moist mulch piled up against the trunk of a tree will cause decay that provide a perfect environment for the development of disease or insect infestation. All you need is a thin layer of mulch to prevent light from reaching the soil and prevent germination of annual weed seeds. Perennial weeds will grow up through even a thick layer of mulch. Mulch should be applied to a depth of 2-3 inches and no deeper! Do your part to educate the uneducated on this mulch issue!

Imported willow leaf beetle hatch has been reported on pussy willow. Adults overwinter and will start feeding on new leaves. Clusters of oval yellow eggs can be found on leaves. Skeletonization indicates the presence of larvae on older leaves. It can be sprayed on early instar larvae, but this pest rarely requires control. In most seasons willows continue to grow and mask the damage.

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

Diseases (Continued)

LEAF DISEASES. The recent wet, cool weather has been ideal for several leaf diseases including crabapple scab, frogeye leafspot on maple and crabapple, and the anthracnose diseases on sycamore, ash, oak, euonymus and others. Most anthracnose diseases are favored by temperatures between 55 and 60°F and leaves that stay wet for prolonged periods. Rarely do the anthracnose diseases require control.

SYCAMORE ANTHRACNOSE. So far the sycamores that I have seen in New Castle county have escaped the bud blight phase of anthracnose, but some leaves that are emerging now are infected. Look for typical foliar infections later. Anthracnose on sycamore produces large brown spots that follow the veins. The trees do not seem to be adversely affected by it, but anthracnose can cause heavy defoliation when conditions are ideal. The cool weather of the week of May 2 may actually be too cool for the disease, which may slow infections down in spite of frequent rains and showers early in the week. Remember that London Plane tree, *Platanus x hybridis*, a cross between the resistant *Platanus orientalis* and the susceptible native *Platanus occidentalis* usually vary in their susceptibility to anthracnose, but in general are more resistant than the native *P. occidentalis*.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF May 2, 2005

- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 209 ('04 = 288)
- Kent County Extension Office (Kent County) = 254 ('04 = 344)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 203 ('04 = 331)