

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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INSECTS

Derby Walker
Extension Agent

EASTERN ROSE CHAFER adults (same family as Japanese beetles) are now commonly occurring in Sussex County. They cause the same feeding damage as Japanese beetles. The beetles are tan in color. They have very long orange legs of which the bottom third is black. They appear to be dusty but they are really covered with short hairs. They feed on a wide variety of plants. They overwinter as larvae in sandy soil so their distribution is somewhat limited. In light infestation, hand pick and destroy adults daily during June. In heavy infestations, spray damaged foliage weekly with Sevin to protect flowers.

APHIDS are very common in spring on a large variety of plants because the weather favors them over their enemies like lady bug beetles, lacewings, and hover flies (Syrphid flies). The key to aphid control is good spray coverage. Aphids are found predominately on the undersides of leaves. Aphid feeding often causes leaves to curl under making it difficult for predators and spray material to reach them. Direct control applications up under the leaves. Aphid populations explode quickly because they are all females giving live birth to females, which will soon be giving live birth to females. Insecticides may not be necessary if there are enough predators present. Look for the adult lady bug beetles and their larvae (they look like alligators), lacewing larvae (with long scissor-like mouthparts extending out of their heads) and hover flies (tiny sluglike larvae).

DISEASES

Bob Mulrooney
Extension Plant Pathologist

FOLIAGE DISEASES. Many foliage diseases are continuing to appear. Crabapple scab, sycamore anthracnose, ash anthracnose and black spot on rose are now easily found. Frog-eye leafspot on red maple, *Acer rubrum*, is present as well. Look for the red-brown irregular spots with the tan center. It is usually a minor disease but can be quite evident especially on native trees or generic trees from a nursery.

AZALEA LEAF GALL has been observed on azaleas grown in heavy shade. These fleshy grayish-white galls on the leaves, which are green at first, can be picked off and thrown away. It is a minor problem and sprays are not needed. This gall is usually variety dependant.

POWDERY MILDEW ON FLOWERING DOGWOOD was observed for the first time on May 25th in Newark, just after the last Hotline went to press. Look for the white talcum-like growth on the leaves

(Continued)

What's Hot!

The greenish yellow larvae of the sawfly we commonly call rose slug can be found on the upper surface of skeletonized rose leaves. In light infestations, hand pick the larvae. For heavier infestations, use horticultural oil or a foliar absorbed insecticide like Orthene or Merit.

Four-lined plant bug damage has been observed on Caryopteris and several herbaceous perennials. Look on terminals for yellow spots that later turn brownish black. Even a few bugs can do a lot of damage. Control now with either a contact or foliar absorbed insecticide. Plants will outgrow the damaged terminals usually by midsummer since there is only one generation per year.

An Ornamentals Hotline subscriber brought up concerns about problems with English walnuts and Japanese maples. Japanese maples with Phytophthora crown canker have been diagnosed in DE. Phytophthora can be isolated from the interface of darkened and healthy wood. Sections of cambium and wood can be removed with a chisel and if kept moist (in a plastic bag) can be checked by a diagnostic lab. The University of Delaware has ELISA capability right now due to a Ramorum blight (SOD) survey. Diagnosticians can also plate out chips on selective media. Send samples to Penn State, PDA or UD to determine if Phytophthora is the cause of either English walnut or Japanese maple tree death.

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

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Diseases (Continued)

in the center of the tree or on water sprouts. When powdery mildew shows up early on dogwood I am inclined to recommend that infected trees be sprayed to control this potentially debilitating disease. It is very easy for homeowners to control with a number of fungicides, such as Immunox, Infuse, Bayer Advanced Tree, Shrub and Flower Disease Control, Bonomy1, and others. If you want other choices I have had very good success with applications of 1% solutions of Sunspray horticultural oil, neem oil (Triact), and potassium carbonate, (FirstStep, Remedy). Commercial applicators can use Eagle, Cleary's 3336, Spectro, Banner MAXX, Heritage, Compass and others. Apply when first signs appear and reapply every 2-3 weeks until early August. If you use horticultural oil, neem oil or potassium bicarbonate you will want to time those sprays to cover new flushes of growth during the season for the best protection. New flowering dogwood cultivars have been released with resistance to powdery mildew and when they are available look for Appalachian Blush, Appalachian Snow, Appalachian Mist. For more information I have an updated fact sheet on powdery mildew on flowering dogwood:

<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/information/pp/pp-28.htm>.

FIREBLIGHT on ornamental pear was also diagnosed last week. Conditions in some areas were very favorable for infection. Ornamental pears are more resistant than regular pear species but are not immune. If you can wait until later in the summer to prune out the dead branches you only have to prune what you see is dead. If you need to or want to prune now you should remove at least 8-12 inches of green healthy wood as well as the infected wood to remove the bacteria from the tree.

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