

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

July 8, 2016

Issue 16

## INSECTS

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

FALL WEBWORMS: Careful scouting at this time may reveal the first generation of fall webworms, which occurs at 802 - 1517 [1105 peak hatch] GDD<sub>50</sub>. Fall webworms feed on over 85 species of trees including, walnut, hickory, fruit trees, maples, poplar, oak, linden, cherry, and sweetgum. The second and usually more noticeable second generation occurs between 1401 - 3226 [2723 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub>.

Adult webworms are white sometimes with brown to black spots on their wings and emerge in mid- to late-June. The larvae are pale yellow to pale green with black spots along the back and covered with long white to yellowish hairs. There are two "races" of fall webworms, with either red or black head capsules. Larvae form webbing around a few leaves and feed gregariously encasing other leaves in their webbing as they grow. Caterpillars feed for about six weeks before they pupate in the soil, bark crevices or leaf litter. This insect forms webbing (i.e., tents) at the terminal ends of branches; whereas, eastern tent caterpillars form their 'tents' in branch crotches and are found in the spring.

Management of fall webworm populations now should reduce populations occurring during August or September. Their damage at this time of year is still mostly aesthetic. Control options now are the same as for later populations and include: tearing the webbing to facilitate access for natural enemies, removal of the webbing, or chemical treatment. Pruners, strong stream of water, hands, stick or other tools are the easiest ways to tear open or remove the webbing. Wasps use these openings to crawl in and remove the caterpillars. Pesticide applications are rarely necessary for this insect but may include, spinosad, insecticidal soap, chlorantraniliprole, a pyrethroid, carbaryl, or an insect growth regulator such as tebufenozide or diflubenzuron.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

GROUND COVERS LIKE ENGLISH IVY, PACHYSANDRA, AND DEAD NETTLE serve a great purpose in filling in areas that are not suitable to grow grass or flowers. However, those ground covers must still be managed, pruned, watered and fertilized. English ivy is susceptible to anthracnose, a fungal leafspot favored by high humidity, and to a bacterial leaf spot that is similar but with a yellow halo around the spots on leaves. To manage, trim to thin out the stand and increase air circulation amid the foliage. Avoid overhead water late in the day. Remove the worst affected foliage and trimmings to reduce inoculum capable of spreading disease. English ivy can be invasive when mature branches are allowed to

(Continued)

## What's Hot!

Daylily leaf streak (fungal) and Heterosporium leaf spot on iris are visible. Prune out affected foliage after bloom.

Since the three major groundcovers used in landscaping (vinca, ivy and pachysandra) all have invasive tendencies, think about using alternative to fill in areas not suitable for grass. *Epimedium* sp. or barrenwort is an excellent groundcover for dry shade. *Cerastigma plumbaginoides* or plumbago is another good ground cover that fills in well once it gets established. *Liriope spicata* or spreading lilyturf can be aggressive, but is fine if planted in an area where it can't take over the garden. *Nepeta x faassenii* or catmint is a taller groundcover. If you are looking for something native, try *Senecio aurea* (ragwort), *Heuchera macrorhiza* (hairy alumwort) or *Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece' (goldenrod).



Fall webworm tent. Photo credit: Linda Haugen, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

For more information

on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



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

View more pictures at <http://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

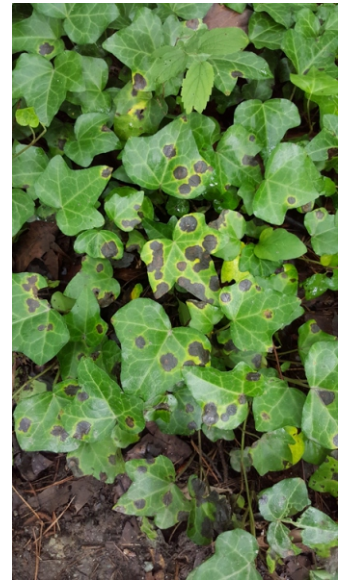
Diseases (Continued)

flower and set fruit. Trim regularly to avoid it climbing up trees, which will adversely affect tree health.

Pachysandra is susceptible to Volutella blight and also to the new destructive boxwood blight caused by *Calonectria*. It is surprising that these two boxwood pathogens also cause disease on pachysandra which is often used as a ground cover under boxwood plantings! Do not plant *Pachysandra terminalis* adjacent to natural areas as it can be invasive. The native *Pachysandra procumbens* may be a better choice for the mid-Atlantic.

*Lamium* (dead nettle) with its silvery leaves is a good ground cover for shady areas and is deer resistant. There are few pests of *Lamium* other than slugs and a few chewing insects. Root rot may occur in areas that stay too wet, and *Lamium* is susceptible to a very specific downy mildew, also favored by wet conditions. All of these ground covers may appear brown in the spring due to winter injury or desiccation.

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist



Bacterial leaf spot on English ivy (note yellow halos). Photo credit: N. Gregory

**GROWING DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF June 5, 2016

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 1362 ('15 = 1510)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 1341 ('15 = 1540)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 1414 ('15 = 1531)



Fall webworm predation. Photo credit: Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org



Fall webworm races. Photo credit: Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org