

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 16

## INSECTS

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

**FALL WEBWORMS:** The first generation of fall webworms occurs between 802 - 1517 [1105 peak hatch] GDD<sub>50</sub> and have been found in Sussex county on rebuds. The black-headed race of fall webworms was found on trees at a nursery. 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 sometime in mid- to late-June. The larvae are pale yellow to pale green with black spots along the back and are covered with long white to yellowish hairs. There are two "races" of fall webworms - those with red- or black-colored head capsules. Larvae form webbing around a few leaves and feed gregariously encasing other leaves in webbing as they grow. Caterpillars feed for about six weeks before they pupate in the soil, bark crevices or leaf litter.

Management of fall webworm populations now should reduce populations during August or September. Their damage now is still mostly aesthetic. Control options 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 and remove the webbing, or remove the leaves being consumed. 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

**WHITE SMUT** was recently confirmed on Gaillardia, also known as blanket flower. Young lesions appear as faint, whitish spots that become larger and more obvious over time. Spots turn brown in the center and may be bordered by light halos. The disease is caused by the fungus *Entyloma*, and spores are produced on the surface of the lesions. A resting spore is produced later in the season inside the diseased foliar tissue. Plants in nursery production, with close spacing and overhead irrigation, tend to be more severely diseased than plants in the landscape. Plants in greenhouses or nurseries may need fungicide applications for good disease control. Landscape management includes pruning foliage back at the end of the season.

(Continued)

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## What's Hot!

The City of Newark, DE has issued new rules and regulations to control the spread of invasive bamboo. "Bamboo, whether existing or new, cannot encroach on an adjoining property..."

[http://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/article\\_60736ae6-7e8e-5b06-94cd-710521066725.html](http://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/article_60736ae6-7e8e-5b06-94cd-710521066725.html)



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



White Smut on Gaillardia. Photo credit: N. Gregory

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://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/archive/>

## Diseases (Continued)

RUST ON TURFGRASS is caused by a common fungus and is not harmful to people or pets. Infected blades are spotted with a yellow to orange spores of the fungus. The fungus is promoted by wet weather and tall turfgrass that holds the humidity, and is more common in turf that is low in nitrogen. Dry sunny weather may help it to dissipate. Rust will not kill turfgrass, but may weaken it and cause it to become more susceptible to other stress-related problems. Keep lawn turf watered during times of drought and mow on schedule, if rust has been a problem in the past. Fungicides are usually not necessary in home lawn turf. A link to a fact sheet from Illinois Extension:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/turf/rustlawn.cfm>

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Rust on turf. Photo credit: R. Mulrooney

