

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 17

## INSECTS

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

**MIMOSA WEBWORMS:** We are close to 1900 GDD<sub>50</sub> and mimosa webworm were just found in New Castle County (range: 750 - 3216) GDD<sub>50</sub>. This moth is in the family Plutellidae and feeds on honey locust and mimosa trees. This insect overwinters as pupae in crevices of the bark or in litter under trees and emerges during late spring. Seldom seen silverish-gray colored adults fly to leaves and lay pearly white eggs.

Eggs turn pinkish just before hatching and larvae tie several leaves together. They skeletonize these leaves and the leaves eventually turn brown. Larvae are greenish-brown to gray with stripes and possible tinges of pink. If the webbing is disturbed, larvae move very quickly. First generation larvae usually form white cocoons in the webbing where they fed as larvae. Adults emerge in late July to early August and lay eggs on or near webbing of the previous generation. Overlooked populations of mimosa webworms could defoliate a tree if populations are high.

Thornless varieties of honeylocust seem to be very susceptible to this caterpillar's feeding; thus mass plantings of thornless varieties should be avoided unless they are able to be sprayed. Sprays using *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel), spinosad (Conserve), insect growth regulators (Dimilin, Mimic) or chlorotraniliprole (Acelepryn) should conserve natural enemy populations. These products will have greater efficacy if applied while larvae are still early instars. Neem products provide repellency and larval knockdown; whereas pyrethroids are used as rescue treatments.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

**MUSHROOMS AND FUNGAL FRUITING BODIES** (discussed last week), solitary or in groups (often in arcs or rings) are plentiful in landscapes, due to the wet weather. Fungi are natural decomposers in our landscapes, breaking down old leaves, herbaceous material and woody material. Fairy ring in lawn turf sites is usually an indication that a tree had been there, perhaps many years before. Fairy rings will start small, and expand year after year up to hundreds of feet, as mycelium spreads under the turf on organic debris in the soil. Most fairy ring fungi are not pathogens on turfgrass, but there can be dieback problems in turf, when soil particles become hydrophobic and cannot absorb water. There are three types of fairy ring fungi generally categorized in turf, as explained on the NC State Turfgrass Environmental Research and Educational Center website. Type I fairy ring causes soil and thatch to become hydrophobic, repel water, and turf may die in patches

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## What's Hot!

Septoria leaf spot on trees is showing up. Usually seen late in the season, these leaf spots require no chemical control.

Green June beetles are flying around and feeding on overripe fruits. They fly low over lawns looking for places to lay their eggs. The larvae are one of the species that make up the white grub complex.

Even though we have had a lot of rain this summer, some moisture-loving plants with large leaves can still flag (wilt) during the heat of the day, especially if planted in full sun. Hydrangeas, echinacea and coleus are three common examples. Usually the plant will rehydrate in the evening, but when nights are hot as well, it is a good idea to water these plants.

Register for the upcoming 2015 Summer Turf and Nursery Expo to be held at Buena Vista Conference Center in New Castle, DE on Wednesday, August 19. For information about the program and to

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Mimosa webworm damage on honey locust.  
Photo credit: Brian Kunkel

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 <a href="http://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/">http://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/</a>	

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Diseases (Continued)

or rings. Type II fairy rings are characterized by fungi that stimulate turf growth, and may result in dark green lush areas of turf. Type III fairy rings are characterized by the growth of puffball type fruiting bodies, often more common in wet weather. Puffball fungi grow on the thatch from turf more often than on woody debris. Type I fairy ring fungi can be the most damaging in turf, especially during time of drought. Fairy ring fungi can be best controlled by prevention, through removing woody debris before seeding or sodding a lawn. Removal of thatch may help, and fruiting bodies may be broken up or raked away to remove. If Type I fairy rings are present, efforts to re-wet soil and break up fungal mycelium will help restore the turf. Fungicides are usually not necessary for home lawns, but may be used in severe cases or in high value turf.

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Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist

## What's Hot (Continued)

download the registration brochure go to:  
[http://www.dnlaonline.org/programs/industry\\_conferences.php](http://www.dnlaonline.org/programs/industry_conferences.php). For questions, contact Valann Budischak at (888)449-1203.



Fairy ring of mushrooms in turfgrass. Photo credit: Nancy Gregory



Close up of mimosa webworm webbing. Photo credit: Brian Kunkel

**GROWING  
DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF July 21, 2015

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) 1879 ('14 = 1727)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 1891 ('14 = 1709)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 1981 ('14 = 1729)