Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

July 14, 2017 Issue 17

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

JAPANESE BEETLE populations seem to be greater in Sussex County this year than in the other counties. Populations vary in size with some being locally abundant. Management can vary depending on the size or number of plants you are trying to protect. Nonchemical options include shaking them off the host plant in the morning and evening into a bucket of soapy water. This may protect plants enough if there are only a few plants, the plants are relatively small, and beetle populations are generally low. Chemical options include products such as Sevin, pyrethroids, neem, Acelepryn or Mainspring depending on the location of host plants.

LACE BUG populations are likely to continue to increase on their host plants until reaching peak numbers usually around mid- to late August. This insect feeds on the underside of the leaves, and they deposit tar spots (fecal material) which can be used as an indicator. Their feeding damage stipples leaves and can become severe enough to cause leaves to look whitish green to bronze in color. Treatments need to target the underside of the leaf unless a systemic product is used. Products such as Sevin, pyrethroids, abamectin, acephate and neonicotinoids are options for control.

BAGWORMS are quite active at this time of year and all eggs should have hatched by now. Scouting susceptible trees will provide information regarding viability of using a *B.t.* product or if broader spectrum products are needed. *Bacillus thuringiensis* works best on bagworms in the dunce cap stage. Spinosad products work well on smaller caterpillars also and there may be

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

PETAL BLIGHT ON AZALEA was problematic in some areas this spring. Caused by the fungus *Ovulinia azaleae*, it can cause considerable damage to the flowers, especially on azaleas in humid areas or in wet conditions. The disease is favored by cool, damp weather during the flowering period. Symptoms include light spots on darker colored petals and tan to rusty spots on white petals. Spots enlarge and infected blossoms become soft and gooey. The petal blight fungus only attacks flowers of azalea, rhododendron, and mountain laurel, and survives as sclerotia on branch tips and in soil or leaf litter. Prune back affected azaleas after flowering, rake up, and discard trimmings.

DAYLILY LEAF STREAK, is observed as a central, yellow streak along the leaf midvein that initially starts at the tip of the leaf, and is caused by the spore producing fungus, *Aureobasidium*

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Gymnosporangium rusts are still visible as spots on leaves of Rosaceous hosts such as apple and crabapple. No control now except to rake up leaves that fall.

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Green June beetles are flying - no treatments are necessary.

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Two spotted spider mites - populations should be increasing this week.

Insects (Continued)

a decrease in efficacy, as the caterpillars get larger. Acelepryn, acephate, Sevin, and pyrethroids will all provide satisfactory control of larger caterpillars. The important application practice is to make sure foliage is sufficiently sprayed with product into the center of the plant to ensure the insect consumes treated foliage.

Azalea lace bug nymph. Photo credit: T. Wootten

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)

microstictum. Daylily rust has similar symptoms, but is not as common in our area and there would be pustules (raised blister like spots) on leaves. Spread of the leaf streak fungus is a result of the spores being splashed or blown during warm, wet weather. Infection eventually causes leaf browning, shriveling, and loss. Management is best accomplished by sanitation and increasing air circulation amidst plants. Infected leaves can be removed and overhead water should be avoided. Do not work with plants when wet. After flowering, plants can be mowed or trimmed to remove affected foliage.

Daylily leaf streak. Photo credit: Univ. of Illinois Extension

Bagworm bag that should be picked. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF July 11, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 1588 ('16 =1553)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 1599 ('16 = 1535)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 1819 ('16 = 1618)

Japanese Beetle damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel