

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

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Issue 18

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

The insectcolumn for this issue is about “cats” and “dogs”—caterpillars and DOGWOOD SAWFLIES. Dogwood sawflies (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae) have one generation per year. Wasp-like adults emerge in May through July and oviposit eggs onto the underside of leaves. Dogwood sawflies are serious pests of *Cornus* species, but seem to prefer *Cornus racemosa* and *Cornus sericea*. Larvae are active 1041 - 3914 GDD or when *Aesculus parviflora* is in bloom. First instars are difficult to spot because they are transparent yellow, but later instars are covered with a white chalky powder. Larvae feed gregariously and skeletonize leaves as early instars, but will consume entire leaves except for tough midveins as later instars. The last molt changes the larvae to a yellowish colored insect with a shiny black head and spots. Mature larvae overwinter in old decaying wood on the ground or may seek out old wooden structures.

Documented natural enemies are parasitoids. For cultural control hand-pick the larvae off leaves. Chemical control options include horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, spinosad, acephate, carbaryl, imidacloprid, or one of the pyrethroids such as cyfluthrin or deltamethrin. Once larvae reach the last instar, chemical control is seldom effective because the sawfly has finished feeding.

A number of species of CATERPILLARS are active now, and this year has been good for many species, probably due to ample amounts of rain, which helps host plants. Leaf-tiers, leaf-rollers and fall webworms are just a few examples noticed this week as I was touring landscapes in Maryland. Natural enemies such as

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

BROWN PATCH in turfgrass is prevalent now in the landscape, and is a foliar disease caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*. Symptoms include olive green to dark brown areas in many turfgrass types including tall fescues and bluegrass. There will often be a dark band on the edge of lesions on turf blades, and affected areas will bleach out to a lighter color of tan. Brown patch does not affect crowns and roots, so the turf will not die completely. Brown patch is favored by high temperatures, especially overnight temperatures, and high humidity. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizer in late spring to summer, and do not water late in the day. Chemical controls may be necessary on managed turf, applied according to labels by a professional applicator. Chemical control is usually not necessary for home lawns, and turf should come back when conditions improve for growth of cool season turf grasses.

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Peony leaf blotch has begun to make peony bushes look rather unsightly. At this point in the season, no control is necessary.

Insects (Continued)

wasps, birds, and parasitoids help keep populations low. Mechanical control includes tearing open webbing (fall webworm). Chemical control options include *Bacillus thuringiensis* (better efficacy versus small caterpillars), spinosad, chlorantraniliprole or pyrethroids.



Dogwood sawflies. Photo credit: Brian Kunkel



Brown patch on fescue turf. Photo credit: Bob Mulrooney

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

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Diseases (Continued)

SHOT HOLE LEAF SPOT on cherry is caused by the fungus *Blumeriella*, although there is also a bacterial shot hole leaf spot. Shot hole usually does not require chemical treatment to control. Sanitation is important; rake up leaves that fall, and prune out twigs with dieback. The Clinic has also received samples of gummosis and canker on cherry trees. Gummosis is a physiological response by the tree to some sort of wound or stress. Gummosis is not related to any one disease on cherry, but is merely a symptom that something is wrong. Bacterial cankers also occur on cherry, and are often followed by borer and bird damage, a sign of terminal decline in trees.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Cherry shot hole leaf spot. Photo credit: Nancy Gregory

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF July 28, 2015

- Swarthmore College
(Delaware County, PA) 2054 = ('14 = 1891)
- Fischer Greenhouse
(New Castle County) = 2068 ('14 = 1882)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown
(Sussex County) = 2160 ('14 = 1897)