

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

July 28, 2017

Issue 19

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

MIMOSA WEBWORM: These insects have been founding feeding in New Castle County and are active between 750 - 3216 GDD₅₀ in our area. 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

HOSTA VIRUS X is a plant virus (potex virus) capable of infecting all cultivars of hosta plants, but it only affects hosta. Symptoms can vary greatly depending on the specific cultivar and the length of time plants have been infected. Most leaves exhibit mosaic yellow-green patterns, color bleed, and leaf distortion—including changes in shape, size and texture such as thickened or bumpy leaves. Hosta virus X is easily transmitted mechanically by hands, gloves, or shears contaminated with infected sap but is not spread by insects. Sharing divided hosta plants is a common means of spread. The virus does not persist in the soil. Infected plants cannot be treated and should be discarded to prevent further spread.

YELLOW NUTSEDGE, also called “nutgrass” is an aggressive weed that thrives in the summer heat and can be seen now in many

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Cicada killer wasps should be emerging soon, if they have not already.

A number of moth species are flying at night including royal moths, imperial moths, and luna moths. Their offspring feed on a variety of trees but seldom do substantial damage. These are examples of insects we should tolerate and enjoy! (Continued)



Mimosa webworm damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Hosta virus X symptoms of mosaic and color bleed. 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/>

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Diseases (Continued)

residential lawns. After turf is mowed, the nutsedge grows back faster and taller, distinguishing it from turf. It infests turf, vegetable and flower gardens and home landscapes. Nutsedges can be confused with grass but can easily be identified by their stems, which are triangular or V-shaped in cross section. The weed spreads by small tubers ("nuts") or seeds. Specific post-emergent herbicides such as halosulfuron-methyl are available to manage nutsedge and also suppress related green Kyllinga, more common in Sussex County, DE in recent years.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

What's Hot (Continued)

- Rose black spot is obvious in landscapes now.

- Wilting and flagging of branches on redbud could be an early sign of Botryosphaeria canker. Prune out affected branches when weather is dry.



Yellow nutsedge.
Photo credit: N. Gregory

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF July 25, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2005 ('16 = 1961)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2010 ('16 = 1958)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2252 ('16 = 2054)



Yellow nutsedge. Photo credit: N. Gregory