

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

August 11, 2017

Issue 21

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

DOGWOOD SAWFLIES: Wasp-like adults emerge sometime 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 eventually consume entire leaves except for tough mid-veins. The last molt changes the larvae to a yellowish colored insect with a shiny black head and spots. Mature larvae will overwinter in old decaying wood on the ground or on nearby wooden structures. The University of Delaware Botanic Gardens has a small infestation of active larvae now.

Parasitoids will attack dogwood sawflies and cultural control consists of hand-picking larvae from leaves. Treatments may not be necessary depending on the instars found on host plants. Chemical control options include horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, spinosad, acephate, carbaryl, imidacloprid, or one of the pyrethroids such as cyfluthrin or deltamethrin.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

BACTERIAL LEAF SCORCH (BLS) symptoms are starting to show on a few oaks in our area, especially those in the red oak group. Caused by the bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa*, and carried by small insects such as leaf hoppers and sharpshooters, BLS has been very damaging to red oaks in Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic states since the early 1990's. Northern red oak and pin oaks under environmental stress are more susceptible. Symptoms include marginal discoloration or scorch of leaves in late summer or early fall, often with a yellow or dark band on the inside edge of the discolored area. Symptoms are similar to those caused by drought or root issues that interfere with flow of water and nutrients. Plants may not develop symptoms for a year or two after infection, but then thinning of branches occurs and trees die within 5 to 8 years. There is no cure. Infection is confirmed with a lab test, so if confirmation is needed, contact the UD Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Please note that there is a \$20 per sample fee for BLS testing. To manage, maintain good tree vigor, and remove infected trees. A UD fact sheet has more info:

<http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/bacterial-leaf-scorch/>

CERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT on crape myrtle is considered to be a
(Continued)

What's Hot!

Downy mildew in impatiens has caused problems for homeowners, gardeners and landscapers in recent years. It initially causes yellow spotting on the upper surface of leaves with white sporulation on the

(Continued)



Dogwood sawflies. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Bacterial leaf scorch on red oak. 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/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE • COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Diseases (Continued)

minor fungal leaf spot. Circular brown to purple spots on the leaf surface enlarge and become more numerous. Diseased leaves turn yellow to bright red, depending on the cultivar, and eventually fall to the ground. The disease is favored by warm, moist weather and can cause defoliation by late summer into fall. There are a few cultivars of crape myrtle that are resistant to the disease. Fungicides are usually not necessary; rake up leaves that fall.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

What's Hot (Continued)

- underside. Leaves drop and plants die out completely. A new resistant cultivar has been released. 'Bounce' impatiens are a New Guinea hybrid that will withstand downy mildew and flower colorfully all season. The cultivar is more costly but is a good replacement for *Impatiens walleriana*.

- The DNLA/Delaware Cooperative Extension/UD PLSC Dept. Summer Turf and Nursery Expo is Tuesday, August 15 at the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens. Contact Valann Budischak at 888-448-1203 or register online at <http://2017dnlasummerexpo.eventbrite.com>.



Crape myrtle
cercospora. Photo
credit: N. Gregory

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF August 8, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2306 ('16 = 2334)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2329 ('16 = 2203)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2579 ('16 = 2441)