

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

August 25, 2017

Issue 23

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

TULIPTREE AND MAGNOLIA SCALES: These two soft scales are difficult to distinguish, especially since both are found on tuliptree and magnolia. Tuliptree scale occasionally feeds on lindens, and magnolia scale on Virginia creeper. Both species overwinter as second instars and resume feeding in the spring. Their feeding results in copious amounts of honeydew and sooty mold from July through August. Crawlers are active now. One of our largest soft scales, they have one generation per year. Look for ants, wasps, flies, and bees around infested trees taking advantage of the sugar-filled honeydew. Place double-sided sticky tape around branches with swollen females producing honeydew. The small dark-red colored crawlers become stuck as they search for new feeding sites. Weekly inspection and replacement when necessary will reveal when crawler densities are high.

Numerous natural enemies, including a predaceous caterpillar, attack both scale species but sometimes they are unable to keep scale populations suppressed. Horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, Distance (IGR) or Talus (IGR) control crawlers of both scales. Imidacloprid or other neonicotinoids must be applied earlier in the summer so there is enough time for the product to move to the target areas of the plant. Tree injections of emamectin benzoate, imidacloprid, or dinotefuran are other options, especially where traffic safety is a concern. Application of pyrethroids can be made during crawler activity; however they frequently have a greater impact on the natural enemies.

WEEDS

Pete Dernoedon
Genesis Turfgrass

This summer's rain has been great for weeds. Among the most difficult to control are sedges (i.e., yellow nutsedge and Kyllinga), spurges and Dallisgrass. Sedges are perennial. Yellow nutsedge (YNS) plants sprout from underground tubers and rhizomes or emerge from seed. Kyllinga does not produce tubers, but has vigorous rhizomes. While YNS rarely goes to seed in mowed lawns, Kyllinga seedheads are produced under routine mowing. YNS grows taller than grass in just a few days after mowing. Kyllinga does not grow as rapidly and blends in better, so the problem may not be evident until yellow-green (eventually turning brown) seedheads develop. Currently, there are no effective preemergence herbicides that target sedges. Postemergence herbicides (e.g., Celero, Dismiss and Prosege/Sedgex) control YNS, but since they emerge all summer, multiple applications are required. Kyllinga is best controlled when the first application is made just after mats become apparent in late May. Apply a second application 21-25 days later, but some plants often survive via rhizomes. Dismiss appears to be more

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Control PORCELAIN BERRY (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) now before seeds mature. It is an invasive vine, originally brought to the U.S. as a landscape plant in the 1870's. The climbing vines out compete most plants, and spread by seeds carried by birds and in stream waters. Leaves and vines resemble grape, but are hairy, with white pith and lenticels in the bark. Fruits are a hard berry that changes from green to dark blue in the fall. Hand removal may not be effective due to root systems, and herbicide treatment may be warranted. Apply an herbicide such as glyphosate before seeds mature. Always apply according to the label, taking care especially around bodies of water. Several applications may be necessary.



Porcelain berry. Photo credit: J Swearingen, USDI NPS

For more information

on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
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

Weeds (Continued)

effective on *Kyllinga*. Remove plants physically when first observed for best control.

Spotted and prostrate spurges are annual broadleaf weeds. Stems can form mats that inundate turf. Spurges are extremely difficult to control in summer. Products containing clopyralid (e.g., Confront and Lontrel) work well, but often two applications are needed once stems radiate. Clopyralid, may not be used on lawns. In lawns, nothing seems to work well, but antidotal observations suggest that Dismiss and Solitaire (Dismiss + Drive) have good activity.

There are three *Paspalum* spp. (Dallisgrass, and bull and field/smooth paspalum) locally, generically called Dallisgrass. Leaves of these warm-season grass perennials die in winter, but stems survive. Seedheads form in late summer and seeds are born in rows on finger-like spikes and are noticeably shiny, whitish, flat, and oval-shaped (similar to goosegrass). Only MSMA controls Dallisgrass (only labeled for use on golf courses and sod farms). Multiple spot-applications of MSMA are required on 14-21 day intervals. This herbicide will yellow turf and cause severe damage if not properly applied. Pylex and Solitaire suppress Dallisgrass. For lawns, dig-out clumps as they appear and before seedheads are produced.



Radiating stems of spurge.



Dallisgrass with purple cast.



Yellow nutsedge taller than grass.



Kyllinga seedheads.

Photo credits: Pete Dernoeden

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF August 22, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2668 ('16 = NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2674 ('16 = 2768)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2944 ('16 = 2864)



Magnolia scale in overwintering stage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Magnolia scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist