

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 3

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

SPRING has not been consistent; thus there has been less insect activity compared to most years. I have not seen any early season caterpillars such as Eastern tent caterpillars or forest tent caterpillars. One of our early season pests, the bark beetle, *Xylosandrus germanus* has been caught in ethanol traps in Maryland. This beetle and the granulate ambrosia beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, are two common spring borers that attack a variety of tree species.

These small beetles attack weakened or stressed trees as well as apparently healthy trees; often in nursery settings. However, they also attack trees in the landscape. Hosts for *X. germanus* include ash, beech, birch, dogwood, holly, linden, maple, pine and many others. Hosts for *X. crassiusculus* include: *Styrax*, redbud, dogwood, maple, plum, ornamental cherry, sweet gum, magnolia, azalea and many more. After a couple consecutive warm day, females fly to hosts and bore into twigs, branches or trunks of trees. As the female constructs the oviposition chamber, she inoculates the tree with a fungus, which clogs xylem tissues and interferes with vascular functions. Visual evidence of beetles in trees include: toothpick-like frass projections sticking out from infested branches or trunks, small holes on infested branches, or areas of sap oozing/"weeping". Infested trees may die from the galleries, introduced fungus, or from pathogenic fungi such as *Fusarium* taking advantage of entry points caused by the tunneling. Research has found it takes 55 days to complete development from egg to adult.

Monitoring for beetle flight is an important tool for managing these beetles. Research has found ethanol to be the most attractive compound for these two species; therefore, traps with ethanol will attract even small populations. Traps within 0.5 m (1.6 ft) of the ground catch the greatest number of beetles.

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

BRADFORD PEAR trees are blooming now in our Mid-Atlantic landscapes. Also called callery pear, with some cultivars such as Cleveland Select, the flowering pear trees are native to China. Typically weak in branch structure, these V-shaped trees usually split or lose branches after 15 to 20 years of growth. Thought to be sterile and not produce fruit (just flowers) the callery pears do cross pollinate with other pear trees in the landscape, and some do produce fruit. The fruit are small and inedible, but are eaten and carried by birds, ultimately seeding in areas such as roadside

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Apple scab infection periods occur in the spring when buds are breaking, spores are being released, and there is high moisture from rain or fog. Fungicide sprays on apple and crabapple will help to manage leaf spot and fruit scab.



X. germanus.
Photo credit:
Daniel Adam,
Office National
des Forets,
bugwood.org



X. crassiusculus. Photo credit: Lacy L. Hyche,
Auburn University, bugwood.org

Insects (Continued)

Treatment options include bark sprays with permethrin or bifenthrin on the trunk or major branches of host plants every two weeks until full leaf flush. Focus management efforts on major or high value tree species and infested trees should be kept for 50 days before removal.

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)

ditches and easements. Roadsides are populated with these invasive, volunteer flowering pears, more numerous over time, and some have thorns. There are many other small flowering trees that are much more suitable for planting. Consider native trees, such as fringe tree, serviceberry, or redbud. Callery pear, Bradford pear, or any of the selections from those, are **not** good options for purchase or planting.

BROWN ROT BLOSSOM BLIGHT of stone fruit trees and flowering cherry and flowering quince has become more noticeable in the landscape in the last few years. The fungus *Monilinia* infects through the anthers and pistil of the flowers, and colonizes the floral tube back to the twig. The blossoms turn brown, wilt, but usually remain on the twig, as the fungus later moves into the twig where it survives the season. Fruit can become infected and gum may exude from twigs. Sanitation is important in the management of *Monilinia* blight, with pruning of infected branch terminals and mummified fruit. Do not prune when wet. Fungicide sprays may help when applied as blossoms open, with two or three applications needed.



Monilinia blight on flowering quince. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

