

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

## INSECTS

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Issue 4

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR is one of our first insect pests and typically emerge from egg masses during 13 - 160 [59 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub>. The neonate (first instar) caterpillars migrate to forks in tree branches, form their tents, and lay down silken trails to nearby emerging foliage. They have a black background with tan-colored hairs, irregular blue markings, a white stripe down the back with yellowish-tan stripes on either side. Wild cherry leaves are preferred food, but they also readily eat crabapple, ornamental apple, plum, peach, and occasionally birch or ash leaves. Female moths emerge and mate during the summer, and they lay eggs in small gray foam-like masses onto small diameter branches or twigs.

A number of natural enemies such as assassin bugs, parasitoids, and birds help keep this insect under control. A naturally occurring virus also helps reduce their populations. Tearing the tent to expose larvae to birds and insect predators or parasitoids provides some control. Pruning out or scratching off egg masses is an effective cultural method to control eastern tent caterpillar for the next year. Some compounds used to control eastern tent caterpillar include: insecticidal soap, *B. thuringiensis* (Dipel), spinosad (Conserve), chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn), or pyrethroid products such as bifenthrin. Applications when the larvae are small increases efficacy and applications should cover both the foliage and the tent.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

FLOWERING DOGWOOD is one of the most beloved trees in suburban gardens. An article in the Washington Post last week highlighted recent breeding work to develop cultivars resistant to two major diseases that have caused dogwoods to decline in their native eastern woods and in landscapes:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/the-dogwood-tree--the-living-symbol-of-the-american-spring--makes-a-comeback/2017/04/04/6e67da64-14b6-11e7-ada0-1489b735b3a3\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.da7bc5b42f5c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/the-dogwood-tree--the-living-symbol-of-the-american-spring--makes-a-comeback/2017/04/04/6e67da64-14b6-11e7-ada0-1489b735b3a3_story.html?utm_term=.da7bc5b42f5c). Dogwood

anthracnose and powdery mildew have been problematic in landscapes. Through the work of plant pathologists at University of Tennessee, including Mark Windham, the Appalachian series of dogwoods was released. The cultivar 'Appalachian Spring' was developed from a survivor in the Catoctin area of Maryland in 1990, and has good resistance to anthracnose. Other cultivars in the Appalachian series were chosen for powdery mildew resistance ('Appalachian Joy', 'Kay's Appalachian Mist', 'Jean's Appalachian Snow', and 'Karen's Appalachian Blush'). The Stellar

(Continued)

## What's Hot!

Watch for spore tendrils on galls of cedar apple rust when red bud trees are blooming.

## WEEDS

Sweet vernal grass appears in tufted clumps and is difficult to pull out of the ground. Leaves are coarse, about and pointed at the tip. During winter, clumps are flattened, but in spring leaves grow rapidly above canopies that have not been mowed all winter. Sweet vernalgrass behaves mostly as a winter annual, and seldom is highly invasive, so herbicides are not usually needed. Mowing will mask plants and above ground tissue dies with higher summer temperatures. Postemergence control may be achieved with fenoxaprop (Acclaim Extra) or quinclorac (Drive).



Sweet vernal grass in a sod field on March 24, 2017. Photo credit: Peter H. Dernoeden, PhD.

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

## Diseases (Continued)

series are hybrids between *Cornus florida* and *C. kousa*, developed at Rutgers, with the cultivar 'Ruth Ellen' a popular one and 'Stellar Pink' a good pink that tolerates disease. A *C. florida* pink with good disease tolerance is 'Cherokee Brave', and the hybrid cultivar 'Plena' is disease resistant but non-fruiting. Site conditions are very important for good growth of dogwoods, which also suffer from several other fungal diseases. Check out the article to learn more, including comments by Delaware's Jimmy Testa from Mount Cuba Center.

BURLS are hard woody outgrowths on shrubs and trees, different from crown gall caused by a soil bacterium. Along any stem are buds that can elongate to become shoots, and each of these shoots has buds that can become shoots themselves. Not all buds on a plant expand; some remain dormant and some are delayed. In the case of a burl, instead of dormant buds expanding into straight shoots, they grow inward, twisting and turning under the bark and never emerge as branches. Occasionally a shoot does elongate from a burl on a mature tree, but withers and dies. Usually, cells within a burl just keep dividing with no obvious purpose or benefit to the tree, but make for interesting landscapes.



Burls on a tree trunk in Norfolk County, England. Photo credit: Wikipedia



Appalachian Blush flowers, pink edges in cool spring. Photo credit: Mark Windham, U of TN

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF April 11, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 74 ('16 = 152)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 104 ('16 = 123)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 153 ('16 = 165)