

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

April 22, 2016

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

CARPENTER BEES are actively flying around looking for mates or locations for laying eggs. Male carpenter bees will frequently hover as they look for mates and are completely harmless because they lack a stinger. They have a yellow patch of hair on their head. This group of bees looks very similar to bumble bees, but lack the hair bumble bees have on their abdomens. Bumble bees often nest in the ground, whereas carpenter bees chew holes in bare, unpainted or soft wood. Redwood, cedar, cypress or pine are frequently attacked as windowsills, roof eaves, shingles, railings, telephone poles and sometimes doors or wooden lawn furniture.

In the past, pressure treated wood or copper arsenate treated wood was rarely attacked; however current safer pressure treated woods appear to be susceptible to excavation. Females chew into the wood to form brood chambers, lay an egg and leave 'bee bread', composed of pollen and regurgitated nectar, which the larva eats. Each tunnel has six to eight brood chambers and one generation per year. Bees complete development by August and emerge to feed on nectar until they return to the tunnels to overwinter.

If treatment is desired, various insecticide dusts can be applied to the entrances using a duster. Make these treatments at night to
(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE (RRD) is caused by a plant virus carried by the small eriophyid mite (UD fact sheet at: <http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/rose-rosette-disease-2/>). RRD is found throughout the United States, and several years ago made the jump from multiflora rose to cultivated roses. Asymptomatic infected material may be shipped from one state to another, be sold, and later develop symptoms, and there is no cure. The virus is specific to Rosa species, and the highly susceptible multiflora rose has been a major factor in the spread of virus. Widely planted multiflora became invasive, and populated hedgerows which border many housing developments. David Byrne from Texas A & M University is leading a multistate multi-million-dollar grant project, through which UD Professor Thomas Evans and graduate student Danielle Novick will investigate graft transmission and evaluate new cultivars for resistance. An effort is being made to ensure that planting stock is free of the virus, and that resistant cultivars are available for planting. Once infected with the virus, plants become symptomatic within 30 days, with symptoms of red, bunchy,
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Issue 5

What's Hot!

Keep up with fruit tree sprays: <http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/home-orchard-production-apple-pear-and-stone-fruit-disease-management/>

A good resource calendar from MD for IPM: <http://extension.umd.edu/ipm/pest-predictive-calendar-landscapenursery>

Now is good time to consider treating for Ambrosia beetles with bark sprays (bifenthrin or permethrin), especially on yellowwood, Styrax, redbud, Prunus, and other susceptible species.

Eastern tent caterpillar's tents are becoming much more visible. Tear open tents and let natural enemies work on them. B.t., Conserve, Dimilin (an IGR) are other options.

Insects (Continued)

reduce the possibility of being stung. Leave tunnels unplugged during the season to increase the opportunity for females to obtain a toxic dose of the pesticide. However, in the fall, seal holes using wood putty, carpenter's glue, or wooden dowels, to reduce wood decay and reutilization of old nesting locations. Stained wood is also susceptible to bee attack; however, painting the wood will reduce bee activity. Many aerosol products are available to treat bees and wasps. Female bees provisioning chambers can sting so follow caution when making applications.

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

Diseases (Continued)

atypical growth, stunting, and extreme thorniness. Normal new growth can be red in color, but does not have the bunched characteristic as new growth expands. Due to large populations of mites and the large number of rose plants in our landscape, eradication is not practical. Removal of infected plants is, however, one of the best management practices we currently have. Recommendations include pruning out abnormal growth, but removing the plant if the new growth that comes out is also abnormal, with clippings discarded, not composted on site. Seasonal pruning of roses should be done in the late winter or early in the spring. Applications of dormant oil in the winter or hort oil in the summer may help to reduce mites and researchers are working on miticides to control the eriophyid mite. Scout roses often in the spring, looking for abnormal growth, as the mites are too small to be seen with a hand lens; another good reason to keep records of infestations each season. Kevin Ong from Texas A & M and Jen Olson from Oklahoma State will be posting updates this season and YouTube videos on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CombatingRoseRosette>.



Abnormal foliage from rose rosette disease. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF April 19, 2016

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 193 ('15 = 148)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 140 ('15 = 113)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 177 ('15 = 141)



Male carpenter bee. Photo credit: David Stephens, Bugwood.org



Carpenter bee. Photo credit: Jim Baker, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org