

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 6

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

LACE BUG egg hatch occurs between 181 - 251 [202 peak] GDD₅₀. The plant phenological indicator for egg hatch is full bloom of *Aesculus hippocastanum*. First generation nymph activity is 240 - 561 [318 peak] GDD₅₀ and should be soon. Other areas in the region may see nymph activity start between 240 - 998 [430 peak] GDD₅₀. Management of the first generation or overwintering adults reduces the impact this pest has on infested plants for the rest of the summer. Hawthorn, azalea, sycamore, and oak lace bugs are all common species found in the mid-Atlantic area. Hawthorn lace bugs feed on hawthorn, cotoneaster, quince, crabapple, mountain ash, and pyracantha. Azalea lace bugs feed various azaleas; oak lace bugs feed on different species of oak trees. Overwintering hawthorn lace bug adults begin feeding in the spring at 196 - 472 [349 peak] GDD₅₀ or when *Lagerstroemia indica* is at the leaf bud break phenological stage. Oak, sycamore, and azalea lace bugs may have two to three generations a year.

Frequently used indicators of lace bug infestations are the shiny black fecal spots on the underside of the leaves called tar or resin spots, or the stippled (whitish- to bronzed-colored) upper leaf surfaces. Lace bug nymphs are not lacelike, but are spiny and usually dark brown to black.

Horticultural oil or insecticidal soap applications must contact the insects; thus the underside of leaves must be sprayed. Both of these products have low impact on the natural enemies attacking lace bugs. Heavy infestations may require the use of products such as acephate, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, imidacloprid, dinotefuran, chlorantraniliprole, acetamiprid and pyrethrin. Plants with a history of mite problems should not use imidacloprid as a treatment.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

NEEDLECAST on Douglas fir and blue spruce is caused by two or three different specific fungi. Swiss needlecast is the most common needlecast on Douglas fir, which also gets Rhabdochline needlecast. Blue spruce is susceptible to Rhizosphaera needlecast, also caused by a fungus. Accurate diagnosis requires microscopic examination. The control or management however, is similar, with the use of fungicides to protect the new growth of needles. Apply chlorothalonil when buds break and needles are expanding to a length of 1/8 to 1/4 inch long, getting good coverage to all parts of the tree. Apply a second spray 10 days later, and a third application may be needed about two weeks after that. The

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

What's Hot!

Red thread is a turf disease we always see in the spring, characterized by red growth of the causal fungus, including macroscopic "threads" or sclerotia in turf grass, more prevalent on stressed or nutrient imbalanced turf.



Red thread on turf. Photo credit: N. Gregory



Lace bug adults, nymphs and tar on leaf underside. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

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/>

Diseases (Continued)

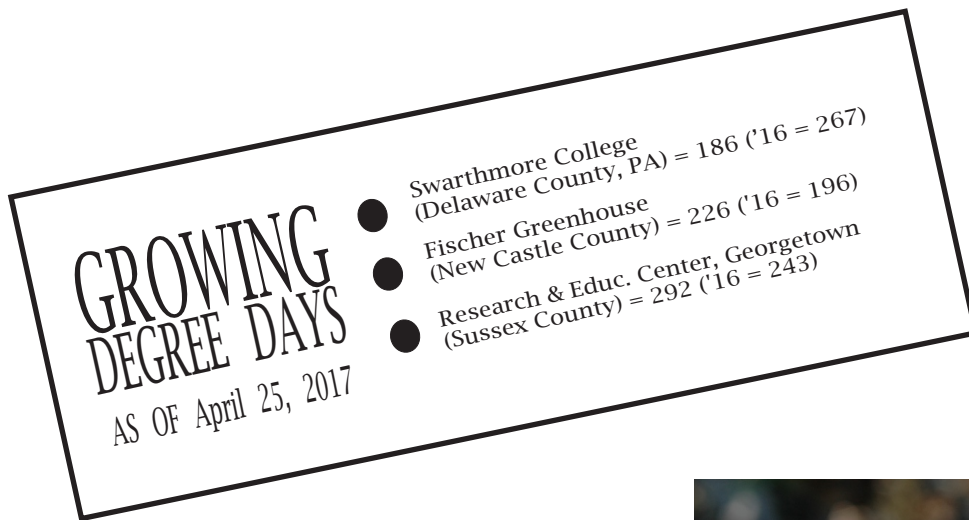
fungicide will not cure the blighted second year needles and they will still drop, but will protect the new growth. It may take a year or two to gain good control of the needlecast disease.

LEAF DROP ON AMERICAN HOLLY. We are now seeing the drop of second year leaves on broad-leaved evergreen such as holly. American holly trees in particular, have many leaves yellowing and dropping. This is normal physiology for these evergreen trees, as they lose those older leaves. There is also some fungal leaf spotting on hollies, which is common and will not harm the long term health of trees. We are also seeing some tip dieback on white pines that were heavily laden with snow in the storm in March. It may lead to bud break behind the tip, resulting in a little more bunched growth.



Swiss needlecast on Douglas fir. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Heavy lacebug damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel