

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

April 27, 2018

Issue 6

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

APHIDS are among the earliest insects of the spring, and small populations are beginning to be found on a variety of perennials. Aphids can have a complicated life history and feed on a variety of different plants. A few hosts include: beech, yarrow, Japanese anemone, coneflowers, bee balm, Salvia, lamb's-ears, violets, tulip popular, daylilies and many others.

Identification is relatively simple. They are tear-drop shaped with two cornicles and a cauda. The cornicles are paired, long cylindrical chambers on the dorsal surface of the aphid's abdomen. Aphids expel an alarm pheromone with these structures. The cauda is a tail-like process, found between the cornicles that extends out from the abdomen. Aphids use the cauda to flick honeydew away from their bodies. Aphid populations increase quickly partly because they reproduce by parthenogenesis (asexual reproduction). Two common aphid species in our area are the green melon and green peach aphids. Aphid feeding may cause cupping, discolored leaves, or distortion of foliage in addition to honeydew and sooty mold. Some aphid species have a waxy covering. White shed skins may be found stuck to honeydew and can serve as an indicator of aphids.

Common green melon aphid colors may include: dark green (almost black), pale yellow, tan, green, or lavender. They often feed at the center of the plant while moving towards the buds as older leaves mature. The adult cornicles are black. Common green peach aphid colors may include: light to dark green or pinkish to orange. Cornicle color is usually lighter than the body.

Lady beetles, green lacewings, hover fly larvae and various parasitoids are voracious predators or parasitoids of aphid populations. If control is warranted, a number of products are available for use. Some non-neonicotinoid options include: insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, *Beauveria bassiana*, abamectin, (Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

SLIME FLUX occurs on tree trunks in wet weather, often in the spring. Wounded areas may show wetwood, with a darkened area or streaks downward from a wound. These areas exude sap, but usually dry up as conditions dry in the spring. Some tree species such as dogwood, elm, oak, and mulberry are more prone to sap flow. Surface bacteria or yeasts colonize the wet area, feeding on sugars in the sap, and a bad smell may develop. For this reason, (Continued)

What's Hot!

Prune out galls of cedar apple rust and other Gymnosporangium rusts from eastern red cedar and juniper to prevent spread of spores to rosaceous hosts.



Dogwood Fusicolla slime flux. Photo credit: R. Larkin

Insects (Continued)
azadirachtin, pymetrozine, pyriproxyfen, pyrethroids, carbaryl or acephate. Neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid, acetamiprid, clothianidin and dinotefuran are other options.

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/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

the disorder is also sometimes called bacterial wetwood. It may be foamy. Occasionally, a fungal species, *Fusicolla merismoides* (synonym *Fusarium merismoides*) grows on the surface, turning the entire slimy mass a bright orange color. This striking orange goo is sometimes known as the “deer vomit fungus”. It may appear one year and not appear the next year. As with many woodland fungi, conditions for growth and sporulation may vary from year to year, and trees may recover. Wounds should not be treated, painted, or drain tubes installed. Trees in decline should be monitored for insect infestations and severely declining trees removed.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Fire blight on callery pear. Photo credit: N. Gregory

**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF April 24, 2018

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 71 ('17 = 186)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 74 ('17 = 226)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 101 ('17 = 292)



Melon aphids. Photo credit: Mohammed El Damir, Bugwood.org