

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 10

## INSECTS

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

LACE BUG egg hatch occurs between 181 - 251 [202 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub>. The plant phenological indicator for egg hatch is full bloom of *Aesculus hippocastanum*. First generation nymph activity is 240 - 561 [318 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub>. Other areas in the region may see nymph activity start between 240 - 998 [430 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub>. 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] GDD<sub>50</sub> or when *Lagerstroemia indica* is at the leaf bud break stage. Oak, sycamore, and azalea lace bugs may have two to three generations a year.

Look for 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. If plants have a history of mite problems do not use imidacloprid as a treatment.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

DAMPING OFF of seedlings is common in wet soils if there are opportunistic fungi present. Soil-borne fungi such as *Rhizoctonia*, *Fusarium*, and the fungus-like organism *Pythium*, can all cause root rot and death of young plants. Bedding plant annuals are commonly affected. Transplants can be infected in propagation. Then damping off or root rot may occur after planting in garden beds or planters. Examine plants for symptoms of disease when purchased.

RED THREAD of turf grass has been observed locally. Red thread is a fungal disease we often see in the spring, characterized by red growth of macroscopic "threads" or sclerotia in turf grass, more prevalent on stressed or nutrient imbalanced turf. A soil test may

(Continued)

## What's Hot!

The high rainfall amounts recently have led to saturated soils and guttation from herbaceous plants in the mornings. Plants take up excess water that they cannot transpire, and those excess droplets come out the hydathodes on the margins of leaves. Bacteria can be drawn back into leaves and subsequent leaf spot is possible.



Guttation on Rudbeckia leaf margins. Photo credit: N. Gregory



Lacebug stippling on azalea. 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/>

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## Diseases (Continued)

help determine what fertilizer to apply this fall, as fertilizer is usually not necessary in the summer months. Red thread occurs on Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. The fungus will not kill the crowns and roots, so turf will recover.

**PYTHIUM BLIGHT.** Recent rains and flooded conditions may also promote Pythium blight on turf grass. It is characterized by dark “greasy” areas, with mycelium present in the morning on blades. Pythium blight can spread rapidly in warm wet conditions. Water management and proper drainage helps to manage Pythium. Professional lawn care applicators have access to preventative fungicides for control of turf diseases in high value landscapes or severe outbreaks.

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist



Red thread on turf. Photo credit: N. Gregory

**GROWING DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF May 22, 2018

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 434 ('17 = 512)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 450 ('17 = 528)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 534 ('17 = 670)



Azalea lacebug nymph. Photo credit: N. Gregory and B. Kunkel



Green lacewing eggs and lacebug. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Lacebug close up. Photo credit: B. Kunkel