

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

June 1, 2018

Issue 11

*What's Hot!*

## INSECTS

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

BORERS were found emerging from fringe trees (same family as ash trees) in Maryland. The borers were identified to be **LILAC/ASH BORERS**, which fly from 159 to 4642 GDD<sub>50</sub>, feed on nectar, and lay eggs during their activity period. The frass (i.e. sawdust-like) around the base of the tree or in crotches of branches is evidence of borer activity. Another indicator of sessid borers are pupal skins protruding from tree trunks or branches. Host plants include most ash species, particularly green and white ash, privet and lilac. Flight of adult lilac ash borers usually begins sometime around mid-April for central Maryland or when *Chaenomeles speciosa* is in full bloom for SE PA and Delaware. Adults are wasp mimics of paper wasps, in size, flight and coloration. The adults may be reddish to yellowish or brownish-black with indistinct orange or red bands.

Eggs are laid singly or in clusters under cracks in the bark. Lower portions of the tree trunks (ground up to ~12') or larger branches are often the site of attack. The egg hatches, then the insect feeds - frequently pushing the frass out of the galleries it is making. Larvae create rough gouging wounds about 2" deep under the bark and up to 12" long. They are creamy white with dark brown heads and reduced prolegs. Repeated attacks often cause gnarled swellings, possibly sucker growth and branch dieback.

Use pheromone traps to monitor for adult flight activity and apply permethrin or bifenthrin to bark upon capturing the first male moth. Products available include abamectin, acelepryn, bifenthrin and permethrin. Also use pheromone traps for monitoring other sessid borers active at this time of year.

(Continued)

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

WET FEET on Ornamentals is likely to be a problem with the excess rainfall we have had this spring, especially in trees and shrubs planted for less than a year. Newly transplanted trees and shrubs have not had time to put out new fine feeder roots. They can easily succumb to root rot pathogens such as *Phytophthora* and *Pythium* that thrive in areas with poor drainage. Soils become saturated with water, which displaces oxygen, and roots die in those oxygen deficient soils. Take note now of areas with poor drainage or high clay content, those without a good topsoil layer, and areas where roadways or sidewalks may funnel in to. Re-route downspouts, add drain extenders, put in French drain systems, or install a rain garden above the wet area to help manage those spots. Utilize plant species that are tolerant of wet conditions and

(Continued)

Turf diseases are proliferating, especially in areas with poor drainage.

Now that plants have leafed out completely (supposedly), it is time to check for winter injury. Many crepe myrtles in northern Delaware have significant dieback after the winter of 2017/2018. We had a cold spell at the end of the fall before plants had hardened off completely and then severe cold temperatures in early 2018. Other plants, especially fall planted perennials may also have some mortality.



Emerald ash borer. Photo credit: Taylor Scarr, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Bugwood.com

Insects (Continued)

Emerald ash borer (EAB) also attacks fringe and ash trees. It was found on a trap in DE a few years ago. EAB emerge as adults from host trees in early May to mid-June. Canopy thinning, epicormic growth and increased woodpecker activity are possible indicators of this borer. EAB does not attack lilac.

*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)

those that may show some resistance to *Phytophthora*, such as *Ilex verticillata*, *Calycanthus*, *Abelia*, and some ornamental grasses and sedges.

FUNGICIDES - Recent bulletin from Syngenta with label updates (not to be interpreted as an endorsement of any particular product):

**Heritage** - Section 3 label approved that includes a full listing of vegetable, herbs and fruit & nut crops. Supplemental label allows uses of product on hand with older label.

**Palladium** - For use on ornamentals, label was recently updated to include uses on berry producing plants, certain vegetables, herbs, fruits and nuts. Updated registrations expected by fall.

**Medallion WDG** - Label amended to include bulb and corm dips, and certain vegetable, herbs, berries and tropical fruit. Updated registrations expected by fall.

**Subdue Maxx** - Label updated for certain vegetable crops, herbs, fruits & nuts. Supplemental label allows uses of product on hand with older label.

**Segovis** - Systemic fungicide now registered in all states for control of oomycete diseases (*Phytophthora* and downy mildew pathogens).

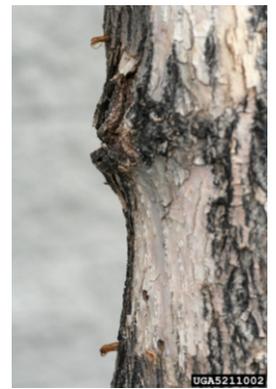
**Mural** - broad spectrum fungicide two active ingredients: azoxystrobin and benzovindiflupy). Control of diseases such as *Botrytis*, powdery mildew and several leaf spots has been observed with low use rates.

As always, the label is the law.

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF May 29, 2018

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 578 ('17 = 601)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 595 ('17 = 618)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 682 ('17 = 776)



Pupae and emergence holes. Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.com



Lilac ash borer. Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.com



EAB damage. Photo credit: Eric Day, VA Tech, Bugwood.com



Phytophthora root rot Douglas fir. Photo credit: T Olson, PA Dept of Ag