

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

## INSECTS

June 29, 2018

Issue 15

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JAPANESE BEETLES are flying and feeding on various host plants including over 300 different types of broad-leaved plants. Some of the plants Japanese beetles prefer to feed on their preferences include roses, cannas, flowering crabapple, lindens, Norway and Japanese maples, and elms. Sufficient rainfall last year means decent populations of Japanese beetles this year; however, they are only beginning to emerge in New Castle County. Populations started to emerge about a week ago in Maryland at some nurseries. Historically, adult activity occurs between 1094 - 2410 GDD<sub>50</sub>. The copper and green beetle skeletonizes plant foliage by feeding in between the leaf veins.

Many natural enemies attack the various life stages of Japanese beetles such as assassin bugs, parasitoids, ants, ground beetles, rove beetles, birds, skunks, and raccoons. Manage beetles with hand removal, removing previously beetle-damaged leaves, or shaking beetles into buckets of soapy water. This summer, the Universities of Delaware and Maryland are continuing a project to evaluate efficacy of Acelepryn and other insecticides against adults. Chemicals available for controlling adult beetles include, Orthene, Sevin, Acelepryn (landscape uses) or one of the pyrethroids (e.g., cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, etc.). Apply insecticides every 1 - 2 weeks when adult activity is high. Neem based products typically deter feeding for 3 - 4 days; applications should be before damage occurs. Imidacloprid works for adult Japanese beetle control, but tolerance of some feeding is necessary. Wettable powder formulations of some pyrethroids (pyrethrins) may be more repellent than the EC formulations. Thorough coverage of target plants is needed for any of the listed products to provide effective protection. Insecticidal soaps, plant extracts, and companion plantings are generally ineffective.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician  
Jen Rushton, Intern

PLANT STRESS has been high this year and we are not out of danger. Saturated soils earlier will lead to damaged root systems and lack of fine feeder root development, especially in newly planted trees and shrubs. Keep an eye out for leaf scorch, tip dieback, and wilting as the season progresses. Affected trees may topple more easily in storm winds. We have also seen slime flux and gummosis on trees, due to wounding and high moisture. Turf has been affected by Pythium root disease and anthracnose as well as other fungal turf diseases favored by high moisture. Irrigation systems on turf should not run every day in landscape situations. Water early in the day so that foliage can dry before dark.

## What's Hot!

Ornamentals Hotline is going on vacation! We will not be publishing an issue next week due to the July 4th holiday. See you in 2 weeks.

Xanthomonas bacterial blight on geranium, peony blotch, black spot on rose, powdery mildew on Monarda, and daylily leaf streak have been observed this week.



Japanese beetle adults and damage. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Pseudomonas blight on lilac. Photo credit: R. Mulrooney



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 (Continued) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## Diseases (Continued)

BACTERIAL BLIGHT usually occurs after rainy wet weather on younger leaves and shoots of lilac, willow, pear, cherry, magnolia, maple and many other woody plants as well as herbaceous plants. The bacteria, *Pseudomonas syringae*, causes water soaked dark lesions with a yellow border, flower blight, twig girdling, and blackening. Petioles turn dark and eventually leaves fall off. Entire leads may wilt, similar to symptoms of fire blight (also bacterial). Wind, rain, insects, and infected tools can be means for the spread of bacteria. Good sanitation techniques are necessary to prevent the disease from overwintering by removing debris and dead portions of the plant when weather is dry. Copper sprays have little effect and may damage new growth. There are disease resistant cultivars of lilac and other trees that can be planted to manage bacterial blight.



Bacterial blight on geranium leaf. Photo credit: N. Gregory

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Extension Horticulturist

**GROWING  
DEGREE DAYS**

AS OF June 26, 2018

- Swarthmore College  
(Delaware County, PA) = 1162 ('17 =1220)
- Fischer Greenhouse  
(New Castle County) = 1175 ('17 =1237)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown  
(Sussex County) = 1306 ('17 = 1433)