

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

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Issue 18

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

JAPANESE MAPLE SCALES are common and feed on plants from 45 different genera (27 families) and include common plants such as: *Acer*, *Cornus*, *Euonymus*, *Ilex*, *Ligustrum*, *Magnolia*, *Malus*, *Prunus*, *Rosa*, *Syringa*, *Ulmus* and *Zelkova* among others. This armored scale is difficult to control because it has an extended crawler activity period (8 - 10 weeks), two generations a year and is small. Infestations will cause dieback and eventual plant death. The second generation crawlers will become active in a few weeks. Now is a good time to scout potential hosts to determine if there is a population present, and what management efforts are needed.

This armored scale is long, thin, irregularly oyster-shaped, and has a white waxy covering over a dark brown skin. Males and females look similar and when the covering is removed, immature scales and females typically have a light purplish color to them. Crawlers are also light purple and settle relatively quickly (usually within hours of emerging). This scale is most often found settled on the bark of branches, twigs and trunk of the host; however heavy infestations may have them on foliage. Recent research at the University of Maryland found there are two generations with the first beginning at about 806 GDD₅₀ and continuing for about 7 weeks with a peak at 1144 GDD₅₀. The second generation starts around 2220 GDD₅₀ continuing about 8 weeks with a peak at 3037 GDD₅₀. Research from the efforts of Penn-DEL IPM group found crawler activity of one generation 695- 1973 [846 peak] GDD₅₀ and I found additional activity 2260 - 2450 GDD₅₀ which probably continued longer.

Scouting is important to time applications appropriately. Sample infestations prior to applications to inspect for parasitoid activity. The covers of this armored scale remain for a time and can appear unsightly. Get successful control with horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, insect growth regulators (Distance or Talus),

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician
Jen Rushton, Intern

BROWN PATCH is showing up in turfgrass lawns now. Brown patch caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia* is problematic as we get into very warm weather with warm temperatures overnight. Brown patch symptoms include irregular circular patches that are brown or tan and appear flattened. Individual lesions on blades are tan with a darker border. Fescues, bluegrass, rye and bentgrass are all susceptible, although there are a few resistant varieties available. Avoid water late in the day, which can be difficult with afternoon thunderstorms. Avoid high nitrogen

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What's Hot!

Fire blight is still visible in apple and pear trees. ■

Winter injury resulted in poor bloom on crape myrtle. ■

Powdery mildew is common on lilac and a few other hosts now. ■

Dogwood sawflies may be active and fall webworm are actively feeding.

Insects (Continued)

clothianidin or dinotefuran. Tank mixing horticultural oil (0.5%) with the Distance also seems to improve their coverage and efficacy. Tank mixing Talus and horticultural oil may clog nozzels. Stanton Gill and I conducted a trial last summer and found dinotefuran, Talus, and Altus (new product from Bayer) provide excellent control of this pest.



Brown patch on tall fescue. Photo credit: N. Gregory

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)

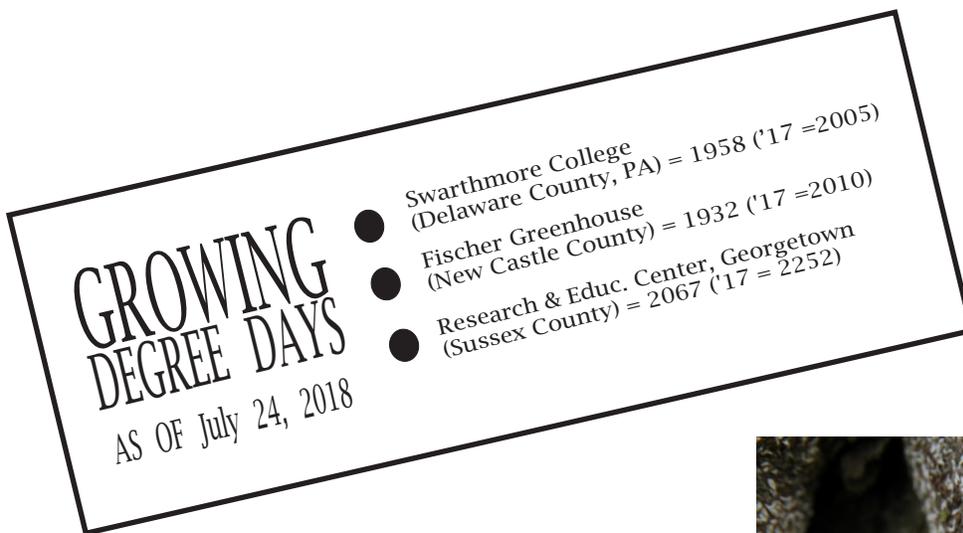
fertilizer after early spring applications. *Rhizoctonia* will not kill the crown and roots, but can cause severe dieback in foliage. The turf should come back when conditions improve for growth of cool season turf grasses. Preventative fungicide applications may be necessary on high value sites. Azoxystrobin or pyraclostrobin products, mixed with other chemistries or rotated with other products can be used, to avoid resistance development. We are also seeing other turf diseases on poorly drained turf.

YELLOW LEPIOTA or Yellow Parasol mushroom in potted plants, greenhouses, and compost piles is easily recognizable by its small size, bright yellow powdery appearance and where it occurs. The scientific name is *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii* and it won't hurt your plants, but may be toxic if eaten. There are several similar species that may have brown to yellow color. There is no way to stop fungal growth in soil or pots, short of replacing all the soil infested. The fungus is saprobic, growing on organic matter and not a plant pathogen. It grows singly or clustered in flower pots, greenhouses, and outdoors in summer, but indoors year-round.



Leucocoprinus in potted plants.
Photo credit: T. Volk

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Japanese maple scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel