

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

March 29, 2019

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS are ahead of last year and rainfall in March for 2019 is greater than 2018. We need to dry out a bit to get the season rolling. Hopefully, rainfall this year will be spread out evenly and not as frequent as last year.

COOL SPRING TEMPERATURES provide a great opportunity to get all tools and equipment serviced and ready for the upcoming season. Now is the time to finalize any scouting or management plans before insects become active again. Landscapes usually have annual pest issues until they are successfully managed.

EARLY INSECT ISSUES are eastern tent caterpillars, aphids and bark beetles. Other insects we may see early include: carpenter bees (nuisance issues mostly), tip moths, psyllids, white pine sheath mites, pine sawflies and boxwood leafminers. Temperatures closer to typical might result in more abundance this year.

EMERALD ASH BORER AND SPOTTED LANTERNFLY. These are two important insects to watch for this year. Last summer and fall ash trees were infested with emerald ash borers in Sussex and New Castle counties. This insect typically flies in June. Spotted lanternfly was found in New Castle county last summer and fall. Delaware Department of Agriculture has quarantined a number of zip codes (<https://agriculture.delaware.gov/plant-industries/spotted-lanternfly/>) and permits are needed to conduct business in these locations. Look for further information for permits and how it may affect your business at the above link. As you scout this spring, watch for egg masses. Egg masses look like gypsy moth egg masses but are grayish. Look for information about this new invasive insect in future Hotline issues. This insect feeds on tree-of-heaven, grapes, and many other plants. We hope to discover its locations DE quickly to help slow the spread.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

BRADFORD PEAR (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford') is the first and most popular callery pear will soon be in bloom. These flowering trees native to Asia are weak in branch structure with V-shaped branches that split after 15 to 20 years of growth. Narrow branch angles prompted the breeding and release of many more cultivars such as 'Cleveland Select', 'Chanticleer' and 'Aristocrat'. Thought to be sterile and not produce fruit (just flowers) the callery pears **do** cross pollinate now that there are so many cultivars in the landscape and produce fruit. Fruit are small and inedible but are carried by birds to seed in areas such as roadside ditches and

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What's Hot!

Hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), an annual, is growing and flowering now. It is a low growing rosette with small white flowers, and seed capsules that shoot seeds when disturbed. It is easily pulled up by hand, so remove now before seed is mature.

Now is the time to apply a preemergent herbicide for Japanese stilt grass control (*Microstegium viminium*). This preemergent should go down about 2 weeks before crabgrass control is applied.

For the first two issues of Ornamentals Hotline, we will mail to all 2018 subscribers. If you haven't resubscribed, please visit this URL <http://www.udel.edu/ornamentals-hotline> and subscribe, so you don't get dropped from the list.



Spotted lanternfly adults and egg masses. 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	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
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)

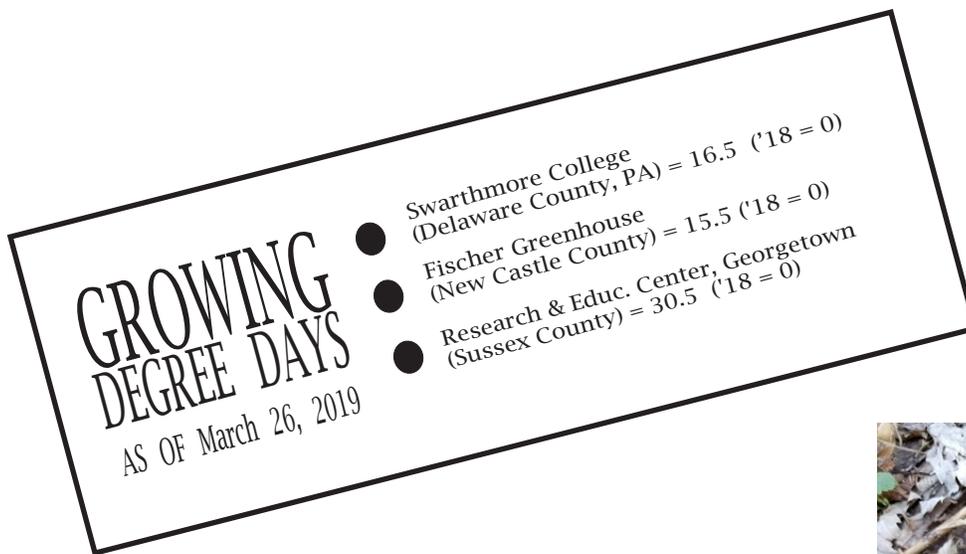
easements. Roadsides are populated with invasive flowering pears, some of which have thorns. Do not plant callery pears and consider removing and replacing them on any properties you manage. There are many small flowering trees more suitable for planting, such as dogwood, fringe tree, serviceberry, or redbud.

COMPROMISED ROOTS. Trees and shrubs with compromised root systems from saturated soils exhibit leaf scorch and wilt symptoms due to lack of water flow to leaf tissues. Damage that occurred in the winter will continue to show up in spring as plants begin to function. Practices that conserve moisture, prevent root damage, and encourage plants to harden off before freezing in the fall can be helpful. Avoid fertilizer and pruning in the fall, as it stimulates new growth without time to harden off before freezing. Encourage deep production of roots by proper watering throughout the season. Water deeply, once a week, and allow soil to dry between watering to encourage deep root systems. Frequent light watering encourages shallow surface roots. Mulch can conserve soil moisture and keep soil temperatures moderate in the early spring when air temperatures and sunlight fluctuate. Monitor trees and shrubs for a zone between dead and live tissue, pruning out the dead to promote new growth and re-shape some plants that have gotten leggy. Good planting practices and proper drainage are important when designing plantings near driveways, sidewalks, or parking areas.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Snapdragon with root rot on the left and healthy roots on the right. Photo credit: N.



Hairy bittercress in the landscape. Photo credit: N. Gregory