

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

## INSECTS

April 5, 2019

Issue 2

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

Spring temperatures are gradually becoming more consistent each week. Hopefully, this year will be a more typical growing season with regards to rainfall and temperatures. Some commonly viewed insects we've seen with the increase in temperatures have been stink bugs, bees, wasps and a couple beetles. One of the first insect species found eating emerging foliage is the eastern tent caterpillar.

EASTERN TENT CATERPILLARS typically emerge from egg masses during 13 - 160 [59 peak] GDD<sub>50</sub>. We should see 59 or more growing degree days in Sussex county by the end of this week, and probably by mid- to late next week for Kent and New Castle counties. The neonate (first instar) caterpillars migrate to forks in tree branches, form their tents, and lay down silken trails to nearby emerging foliage. They have a black background with tan-colored hairs, irregular blue markings, a white stripe down the back and the white stripe has a yellowish-tan stripe on either side. Their preferred food are wild cherry leaves, but they also readily eat crabapple, ornamental apple, plum, peach, and occasionally birch or ash leaves. Female moths emerge and mate during the summer, and lay eggs in small gray foam-like masses onto small diameter branches or twigs.

Several natural enemies such as assassin bugs, parasitoids, and birds help keep the insect under control. A naturally occurring virus also helps reduce their populations. Tearing the tent to expose larvae to birds and insect predators or parasitoids provides some control. Pruning out or scratching off egg masses is an effective cultural method to control eastern tent caterpillar for the next year. Some compounds used to control eastern tent caterpillar include: insecticidal soap, *B. thuringiensis* (Dipel), spinosad (Conserve), chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn), or pyrethroid products such as bifenthrin. Applications when the larvae are small increases efficacy and applications should cover both the foliage and the tent.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

DOWNY MILDEW of *Impatiens walleriana* has been wide spread in the region for over seven years. The hybrid 'Bounce' series has offered resistance in a similar type of impatiens, but there is now resistance to the downy mildew pathogen in several new releases. These cultivars should add to our choices for shady spots but should still be inter-planted with other types of shade loving annuals and perennials for best performance and longevity.

PanAmerican Seed (<https://www.panamseed.com/>) announced a

## What's Hot!

Mulch is a good addition to landscapes, protecting the base of trees and shrubs from mower damage, retaining moisture, controlling weeds and maintaining temperatures in times of fluctuation. Mulch should not be piled too deep into "mulch mountains". Excessive mulch causes decay on tree trunks and opens wounds for insects and pathogens. Numerous examples of excessive mulch have been seen in DE/PA over the past week.

This is the last issue of Ornamentals Hotline you will receive if you haven't resubscribed for 2019. Please visit this URL <http://www.udel.edu/ornamentals-hotline> and subscribe, so you don't get dropped from the list.



Improperly applied mulch around the base of the tree, two years later. Tree showing stress. 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/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE (Continued) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## Diseases (Continued)

series of *I. walleriana* with resistance to Impatiens downy mildew. 'Beacon' impatiens, according to a press release, offer season-long performance and color in shade without the disease risk. "... we are confident that our greenhouse customers, retailers and gardeners alike will have the confidence to grow garden Impatiens once more... with a plant structure, flowering time and flower size that is like existing Impatiens. Beacon Impatiens will have limited supply in 2019, with six core colors and two mixes in the series, with greater availability in 2020." Syngenta Seed also has a release of resistant impatiens, the Imara TM series

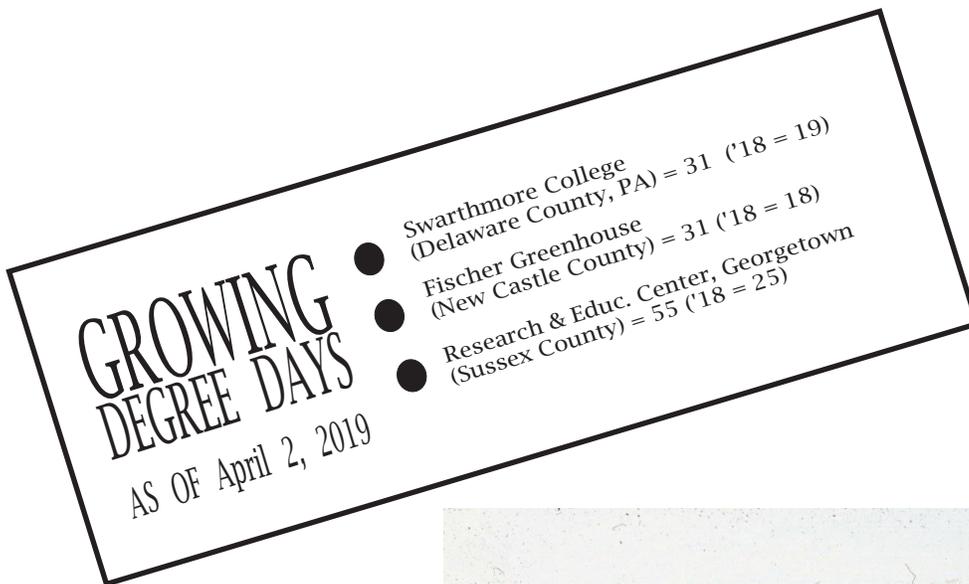
(<https://www.syngentaflowers-us.com/>) "*Impatiens walleriana* with a high degree of resistance to downy mildew (in independent trials in North America and Europe in 2017-18 at Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center). Landscape performance with reliable flowering all season long. Easy and economical, ideal for growing in packs and pots."

Frost affected several types of early flowering trees and shrubs, including Bradford pear and some magnolias.



Impatiens cultivar 'Imara XDR Orange'. Photo credit: Syngenta Seed

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist



Eastern tent caterpillar. Photo credit: Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, bugwood-org



Eastern tent caterpillar tent. Photo credit: Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service, bugwood-org