

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

April 19, 2019

Issue 4

## INSECTS

Brian Kunkel  
Ornamental IPM Specialist

APHIDS, one of our early insect groups, should show up on plants grown in greenhouses, hoop-houses, nurseries and landscape on a regular basis throughout the rest of the year. Aphids can have a complicated life history and feed on a variety of different plants. A few hosts include: beech, yarrow, Japanese anemone, coneflowers, bee balm, Salvia, lamb's-ears, violets, tulip popular, daylilies and many others.

Identification of aphids can be simple. They are tear-drop shaped with two cornicles and a cauda. The cornicles are paired, long cylindrical chambers on the dorsal surface of the aphid's abdomen. Aphids expel an alarm pheromone with these structures. The cauda is a tail-like process that extends out from the abdomen and is found between the cornicles. This is often used to flick honeydew away from the aphid. Aphid populations can quickly increase partly because they reproduce by parthenogenesis (asexual reproduction). Two common aphid species found in our area are the green melon and green peach aphids. Aphid feeding may cause cupping, discolored leaves, or distortion of foliage in addition to honeydew and sooty mold. Some aphid species have a waxy covering associated with them. White shed skins may be found stuck to honeydew and can serve as an indicator of aphids.

Common green melon aphid colors may include: dark green (almost black), pale yellow, tan, green, or lavender. They often feed at the center of the plant while moving towards the buds as older leaves mature. The adult cornicles are black. Common green peach aphid colors may include: light to dark green or pinkish to orange. Cornicle color is usually lighter than the color of the aphid's body.

Lady beetles, green lacewings, hover fly larvae and various parasitoids are voracious predators or parasitoids of aphid

(Continued)

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

APPLE SCAB caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis* causes spots on apple and crabapple leaves, defoliation, and scabby lesions on the fruit. On flowering crabapple, the major problem is mid to late season defoliation. Mid-April is the primary apple scab infection period due to green tissue present, ascospores of the scab pathogen, and favorable weather. Protective fungicide applications are recommended before infection events and before

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## What's Hot!

Plantings in areas with standing water from rains exhibit dieback and chlorosis as plants begins to grow. These above ground symptoms could be due to root rot or compromised root systems.

Hairy bittercress (mentioned in Hotline Issue 1) is flowering now and about to go to seed. The seed scatter when touched, so if you haven't pulled it, you might need to treat with a selective broad leaved herbicide, like 2,4-D or MCPP.



Green peach aphid. Photo credit: Jim Baker, NC State University, bugwood-org

## Insects (Continued)

populations. If control is warranted a number of products are available for use. Some non-neonicotinoid options include: insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, *Beauveria bassiana*, abamectin, azadirachtin, pymetrozine, pyriproxyfen, pyrethroids, carbaryl or acephate. Neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid, acetamiprid, clothianidin and dinotefuran are other options.

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

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Diseases (Continued)

rain events. Ascospores do not all mature and release at once, but will gradually release and land on susceptible new leaves, from late pink stage until petal fall (apple). Spores of the cedar apple rust pathogen and those of powdery mildew will also be causing infection during these wet weather events. Spores of the brown rot pathogen on stone fruits and flowering quince are also released in April. Labeled fungicides such as mancozeb may be applied, rotating chemistries to avoid resistance development. Contact your Cooperative Extension office for detailed recommendations or refer to the newsletter by Penn State fruit pathologist Kari Peter:

<https://extension.psu.edu/disease-conditions-favorable-for-fruit-trees-april-12-14-2019>.

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Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist



Hairy bittercress in flower. Photo credit: U of MD, Home and Garden Information Center, Weed ID Photos



Apple scab lesions on leaf. Photo credit: R. Mulrooney

**GROWING  
DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF April 16, 2019

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 131 ('18 = 65)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 138 ('18 = 68)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 171 ('18 = 94)