

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

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Issue 8

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

GYPSY MOTHS were introduced into the United States in the 1800s, and this exotic pest has periodic population outbreaks. Our last notable outbreak was a couple years ago. Larvae feed on hawthorns, lindens, oaks, willows, beech, red cedar, hemlock, pines, junipers, mountain laurel, and sycamore among many other trees. Considered one of the most important insect pests of forest and shade trees in the eastern part of the country, these hairy black larvae have yellowish and black heads followed five pairs of blue dots and six pairs of brick red dots on their back. Biological control agents (predators & parasitoids) and entomopathogens (insect diseases) keep populations suppressed during most years. Currently, EASTERN TENT CATERPILLARS are “wandering” the landscape looking for places to pupate and are often confused as gypsy moth larvae. The eastern tent caterpillars are finished feeding once they start wandering.

In a survey sent last fall, some respondents stated they managed euonymus scale regularly in nurseries or landscapes. Last week Maryland Cooperative Extension sent out notice that two caterpillars were found in a few counties. One is the EUONYMUS CATERPILLAR and the other is called the EUONYMUS LEAF-NOTCHER caterpillar. Both caterpillars are yellowish green so close examination may be necessary. Control with chemicals is usually not needed because plants quickly recover from damage, but Spinosad or *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* are options with minimal impact on beneficial arthropods.

BUCK MOTH LARVAE continue to be an insect of oak trees sought by Dr. Doug Tallamy in the Entomology & Wildlife Ecology department at the University of Delaware for projects he has underway. This caterpillar has a black to whitish background with many white spots on the thorax and abdomen. Please contact Dr. Tallamy (dtallamy@udel.edu) if you see any of these caterpillars or know where they have been seen in the past.

The caterpillars discussed above are currently active but do not require management with pesticides because birds, insect predators or parasitoids keep their populations in check.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

HERBICIDE INJURY on shrubs and landscape plants is common in the spring in wet weather when chemicals applied to lawns volatilize or are carried in rain water runoff. Diagnostic clues are symptoms of distortion on one side of a plant or on several types of plants in a landscape. Prune out the worst affected portions.

(Continued)

What's Hot!

White rust caused by *Albugo* species, a fungus-like oomycete, was found on toothwort. Yellow spots on the upper leaf surface have corresponding white to light green blisters on the lower leaf surface. White rust infects members of the mustard family, including morning glory and spinach.

Watch for spotted lanternfly nymphs.

Emerald ash borer adults are flying or should be soon. A population was found in New Castle County (Newark) and Sussex County last year. Column describing control options and other information next week!



Gypsy moth larvae (left).
Photo credit: Jon
Yuschock bugwood-org



Eastern tent caterpillar
(right). Photo credit: David
Cappaert bugwood-org

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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Diseases (Continued)

VOLUTELLA BLIGHT on Pachysandra is a yearly problem on groundcover plantings. Japanese spurge (*Pachysandra terminalis*) is more susceptible to fungal leaf blight than the native Allegheny type (*Pachysandra procumbens*). Leaf blight is characterized by brown circular lesions, often with a zonate pattern on the leaf spot, and can spread to stems. Trim and rake affected areas to remove blighted foliage and spray with a labeled fungicide.



Spot anthracnose on dogwood. (photo from last week's column)
Photo credit: N. Gregory

BACTERIAL BLIGHT ON LILAC has been diagnosed recently in Delaware. Common in spring wet weather, bacterial blight is caused by and named for *Pseudomonas syringae*. Prune back when weather turns dry, cleaning pruners between cuts.



Bacterial blight on lilac. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF May 14, 2019

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 416 ('18 = 343)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 421 ('18 = 344)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 522 ('18 = 410)



Euonymus caterpillar feeding with webbing. Photo credit: Univ. of MD



Herbicide injury to hydrangea twigs and leaves. Photo credit: N. Gregory



Buck moth light form. Photo credit: Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn Univ. bugwood-org



Euonymus leaf notcher. Photo credit: Univ. of MD



Buck moth dark form. Photo credit: Susan Ellis bugwood-org