Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

August 9, 2019

Issue 20

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

ARMORED SCALES of AUGUST. Japanese maple, white prunicola, white peach, juniper, and cryptomeria scales all have a second generation with crawler activity around 2,430 GDD_{50}. Some of the species below are difficult to control.

JAPANESE MAPLE SCALE. We presented information on this scale in Issue 13 of Hotline this year. The second generation has crawler activity from 2,220 for about eight weeks and peak around 3,037 GDD_{50} in Maryland.

WHITE PRUNICOLA SCALE: This armored scale feeds on a number of hosts including *Acer*, *Alunus*, *Aucuba*, *Buxus*, *Forsythia*, *Ilex*, *Ligustrum*, *Malus*, *Prunus*, *Rhododendron*, *Syringa*, and others. Crawlers of the second generation are active at 2314 – 3586 [3010 peak] GDD. This insect is often confused with white peach scale and is a serious pest on *Prunus*. Male scales are elongate, felted, white and light yellow at one end; whereas females are round with light yellow slightly off center. Scales are usually on bark and fruits, although occasionally found on leaves. Male scales are on the undersides of branches in conspicuous white masses in heavy infestations. This and white peach scale is easy to spot because males cover stems, branches or trunks and have a felt-like or scaly white appearance.

WHITE PEACH SCALE is quite polyphagous, feeding on over 100 genera of plants including *Buddleia*, *Camellia*, *Clematis*, *Cornus*, *Euonymus*, *Ilex*, *Magnolia*, and *Prunus*. Their host plant list has considerable overlap with white prunicola scale and the two species are difficult to separate without microscopic examination.

CRYPTOMERIA SCALE is an armored scale with the second generation active from 2109- 3297 [2627 peak] GDD_{50}. This scale feeds on pines, yew, Douglas fir, *Cryptomeria*, spruces, and white cedars. The feeding damage causes a chlorosis on needles, distortion of new growth, and stunting. The damage often appears as yellow bands or spots on the needles.

We are close to peak cryptomeria scale crawler activity. Natural enemies such as lady beetles, green lacewings, and parasitoids

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

LIGHTNING STRIKES to trees occur in summer thunderstorms. A direct strike will cause damage to the trunk with a longitudinal split evident. Strikes stress the tree, with intense heat and cell damage, which seems to follow areas with moisture. Affected

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Bacterial leaf spot on annuals such as zinnia, and tomato and pepper has been observed. Pick off worst affected leaves.

▪

Cicada killers are still active.

▪

Dogwood sawflies are still feeding.

▪

Oak lace bug populations are peaking.

▪

Scoliid wasps should be flying soon.

Cryptomeria scale infestation. Photo credit: L. Graney, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bugwood-org

Insects (Continued)

help keep scale populations low. Possible treatment options include; horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, Distance, Talus, Tristar, Safari, Flagship or one of the pyrethroids. Neonicotinoids have decreased efficacy. Stanton Gill and I found significant control with Altus against Japanese maple scale in our research trials.

For more information on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:

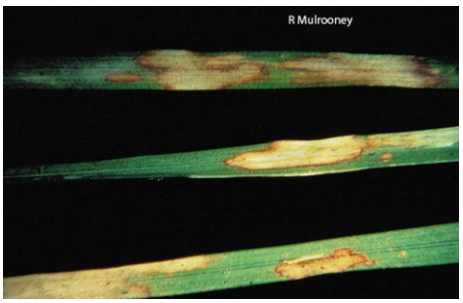
Garden Line (for home gardeners only)	831-8862
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

View more pictures at http://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/

Diseases (Continued)

branches above or below a strike may wilt and die. A split in the bark exposes the tree to invasion by insects and pathogens, but trees may wall off damage and live for years. Painting or repairing wounds is not recommended. Visibly broken branches should be pruned. Lightning protection systems can be installed on high value specimen trees.

BROWN PATCH is showing up in turfgrass lawns. Brown patch caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia* is problematic as we get into hot weather with warm overnight temperatures. Brown patch symptoms include irregular circular patches that are brown or tan in color where blades appear flattened. Individual lesions on blades are tan with a dark border. Fescues, bluegrass, rye and bentgrass are all susceptible, although there are resistant varieties available. Avoid water late in the day, which can be difficult with afternoon thunderstorms. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizer after early spring applications. *Rhizoctonia* will not kill crowns and roots but can cause severe dieback of foliage. Lawns should come back when conditions improve for growth of cool season turf grasses. Labeled preventative fungicide applications may be necessary on high value sites, with products mixed or rotated with other chemistries. Rotation of chemistries helps to avoid resistance development. We are also seeing dollar spot and anthracnose on some turf.



Brown patch on fescue. Photo credit: B. Mulrooney

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF August 6, 2019

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2491 ('18 = 2351)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2500 ('18 = 2315)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2673 ('18 = 2468)

Japanese maple scale on red maple. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Lightning strike damage to poplar. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Severe white prunicola scale infestation. Photo credit: B. Kunkel

Damage from cyptomeria scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel