

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

INSECTS

August 30, 2019

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

TULIPTREE AND MAGNOLIA SCALES. These are two soft scales that are very difficult to identify from each other. Typically, host plant preference is an easy way to distinguish closely related scale species; however both of these are frequently found on tuliptree and magnolia. One difference is that tuliptree scale occasionally feeds on lindens, and magnolia scale on Virginia creeper. Both species overwinter as second instars and resume feeding in the spring. Their feeding results in copious amounts of honeydew and sooty mold from July through August.

Crawlers are active now and we are slightly beyond peak activity based on growing degree days. They are one of our largest soft scales and only have one generation per year. Ants, wasps, flies, and bees are insects that might be seen on or around infested trees since they frequently take advantage of the sugar-filled honeydew as an energy resource. Female tuliptree scales are grayish-green to pinkish-orange mottled with black and their crawlers are active from 2016 to 3212 [2860 peak] GDD₅₀. Female magnolia scales are pinkish-orange to brownish, smooth and are often covered with a white mealy wax until their crawlers emerge starting around 2075 to 3247 [2746 peak] GDD₅₀. One method to scout for crawler activity is to place double-sided sticky tape around branches with swollen females producing honeydew. The small dark-red colored crawlers become stuck to the tape when they crawl across it in search of new feeding sites. Weekly inspection and replacement when necessary will reveal high crawler densities.

Numerous natural enemies, including a predaceous caterpillar, attack both scale species but sometimes they are unable to keep scale populations suppressed. Horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, Distance (IGR) or Talus (IGR) are products available for controlling crawlers of both scales. Imidacloprid or other neonicotinoids are available for use but applications should be earlier in the summer so there is enough time for the product to move to the target areas of the plant. Tree injections of emamectin benzoate, imidacloprid, or dinotefuran are other options, especially where

(Continued)

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

ARMILLARIA ROOT ROT or shoestring root rot is caused by the fungus *Armillaria mellea*, and related species, which are opportunistic pathogens on stressed hardwoods (and occasionally on conifers). It causes a white rot in wood; spreading through individual trees and from tree to tree by means of black rhizomorphs. Rhizomorphs are dark, root-like structures formed

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What's Hot!

Fungal rust can be observed on aster species in landscape beds.

Dean Diehl (Shreiner Tree Care) shared a photo of catalpa sphinx that he found on red maple. A client complained about dark droppings staining the stones of her patio for several years. Even though this was on a red maple and catalpa sphinx are only supposed to infest catalpas, it appears to be a correct ID. When an insect gets hungry enough they will eat plants they are not supposed to like!



Catalpa sphinx on red maple. Photo credit: Dean Diehl

Insects (Continued)

traffic safety is a concern. Neonicotinoids should be used with caution as those products may impact pollinator health. Application of pyrethroids is another option if they are made during crawler activity; however they frequently have a greater impact on the natural enemies.

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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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (Continued)

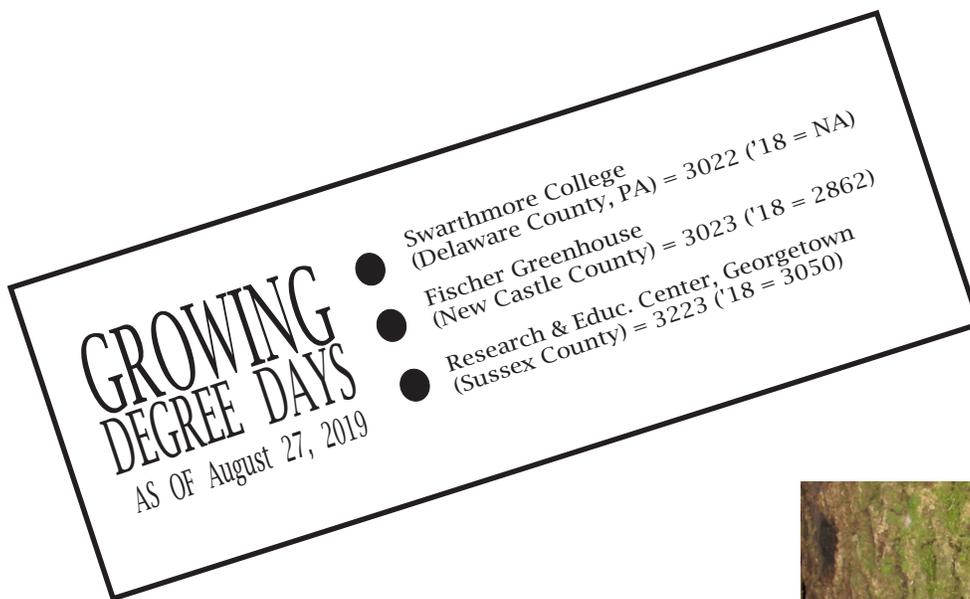
from joined strands of fungal mycelium, giving the fungus its name, shoestring root rot. Tufts or fans of mycelium are sometimes seen on dying trees under peeling bark, and insects are attracted to dying trees. Mushroom fruiting bodies appear in clusters on wood or in lawns where a tree had been, and are honey brown, have gills under the cap, and a ring on the stem.

LEAF DROP OR DEFOLIATION is noticeable in crab apples and other trees now. Following ample rains, weather turned very hot and dry. Wet weather earlier favored leaf spots on crabapple, and leaf diseases such as apple scab, frog-eye leaf spot, and Gymnosporangium rust leaf spots have resulted in leaf drop. Cherry trees have shown similar leaf drop, mostly related to shot hole leaf spot and stress. Ash trees were affected by ash rust early in the season, but most recovered a bit, and put out new leaves. Late season leaf spots caused by fungi such as *Septoria* are causing some leaves to fall dramatically. Due to high humidity, we are also seeing powdery mildew on some unusual hosts such as sycamore.



Rhizomorphs (shoestrings) of *Armillaria* on tree bark. Photo credit: N. Gergory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Cluster of magnolia scales. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Armillaria mushrooms. Photo credit: N. Gergory