

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

## INSECTS

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Another growing season is nearly finished for landscape and nursery plants, and soon most insects will be entering diapause. Some insects and other arthropods will continue to feed for a few more weeks until early winter. Continue scouting for spotted lanternfly and destroy any egg masses found. Now is a good time to record which plants had pests, and to evaluate the efficacy of management programs. Pesticide efficacy against armored scale is easily observed at this time of the year. Scouting plants in the landscape now or shortly after leaf drop may reveal insect populations that have not caused serious problems, but whose populations may warrant monitoring. A list of pest problems will allow you to be better prepared for those pests next year. Some pest populations may be in locations for suitable cultural management options (e.g. pruning) or dormant oil applications. Equipment maintenance and a late season calibration are useful activities to perform prior to storing tools away for the winter.

Some insects are about to become a nuisance pest for homeowners. Common invading insects include: multicolored Asian lady beetle, boxelder bugs, brown marmorated stink bugs, leaf-footed bugs, crickets, and grasshoppers to name a few common ones. The best management technique for these home invaders is exclusion through winterizing the home. Caulking or sealing gaps and crevices prevent most of the access points into a home. New screening for windows or doors also limits access points to a home. Brown marmorated stink bug populations have been unusually high this fall.

## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

FUNGAL FRUITING BODIES (mushrooms and brackets) are commonly seen in fall, after a period of growth underground or inside trees. One example is *Ceriporus (Polyporus) squamosus*. Fruiting bodies may be a sign of heart rot, so remove brackets and monitor trees.

SPRUCE NEEDLECAST was severe this season. Fungicides such as chlorothalonil protect developing needles. Fungicides do not cure infections and infected second year needles will drop. New needles will develop on the infected branches next spring, those are the ones to protect from fungal infection. We recommend pruning bare branches at the bottom of trees, and raking up needles. Spray next spring when new needles are 1/4 to 1/3 inch long, usually early May. Spray again seven to ten days later, fall applications are not effective.

**BLACK WALNUT TOXICITY** refers to inhibition of growth of  
(Continued)

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## What's Hot!

Bacterial leaf scorch symptoms are very noticeable on red oaks, pin oaks, and sycamores, made worse by recent drought conditions.

This is the last issue of Ornamentals Hotline for the season. Thanks for subscribing and we will see you again next year!



Multicolored Asian lady beetle. Photo credit: Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood-org



Brown marmorated stink bug. Photo credit: Kristie Grahm, USDA-ARS, 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/>

## Diseases (Continued)

plants located near black walnut trees, due to allelopathy, where one plant produces a substance that inhibits growth of another plant nearby. Black walnut produces a chemical called juglone, which occurs naturally in roots, buds, and nut hulls. Juglone may build up in root zones of trees and result in poor growth of sensitive plants, and roots continue to produce juglone after a tree is cut down. Plants that are sensitive turn yellow, wilt, are stunted, or die. Symptoms may be mistaken for nutrient deficiencies or plant disease.

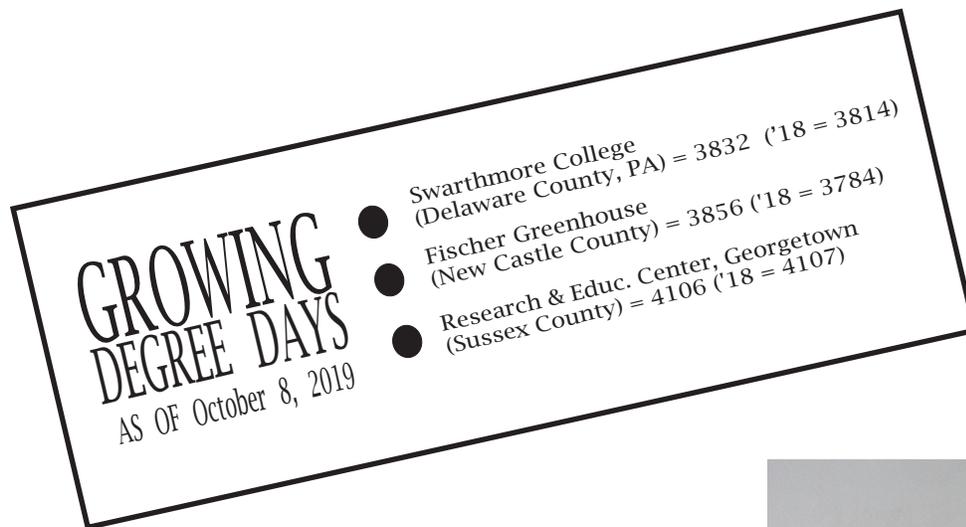
PREMATURE LEAF DROP is prevalent in the landscape due to dry weather. Plants that are drought damaged exhibit leaf desiccation, slowing of photosynthesis, and slowing of growth. Leaves wilt or roll, turn off-color, and drop. Conifer needles drop, current season needles may turn yellow to brown, and are smaller. Newly established plants are most susceptible to extremes, including too much or too little water. Drought stress predisposes plants to insects and disease. Examples of plants that do **not** tolerate drought include sycamore, tulip poplar, horse chestnut, sweet gum, *Prunus*, dogwood, maple, azalea, rhododendron, ash, pine, hemlock, *Skimmia*, *Stewartia*, *Franklinia*, ivy and *Lamium*. More **drought tolerant** plants include *Abelia*, bayberry, birch, *Malus*, *Amelanchier*, *Ginkgo*, holly, lilac, some maples, ironwood, and white oak.



Polypore bracket (*Cerioporus squamosus*).  
Photo credit: N. Gregory

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Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist



Rhizosphaera needle cast - early symptoms on white pine. Photo credit: N. Gregory