

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 10

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel
Ornamental IPM Specialist

Temperatures are warming up and insects are feeding on their host plants in greater numbers.

APHIDS are among the earliest insects of the spring, and this year they have had less predation or parasitoid pressure because of our cooler temperatures. Predators and parasitoids of aphids are less active when it is cool. Aphids feed on a variety of different plants including beech, yarrow, coneflowers, bee balm, Salvia, violets, tulip popular, daylilies and many others.

Identification of aphids is simple. They are teardrop 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 increase quickly partly because they reproduce by parthenogenesis (asexual reproduction). Two common aphid species found in our area are the green melon and green peach aphid. 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. White shed skins may be found stuck to honeydew and can serve as an indicator of aphids.

(continued)

DISEASES

Jill Pollok
Plant Diagnostician

ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE. Scout your newly leafed roses for rose rosette disease (RRD), which is either caused by a virus spread by an eriophyid mite species or graft-transmitted. Common symptoms include rapid shoot proliferation, persistent leaf or shoot reddening, excessive thorniness, thickened canes, and witches' brooms. New growth on healthy rose plants starts out red or purple, so don't be alarmed by new red leaves on your roses unless they are accompanied by other RRD symptoms. Red leaves with RRD will not fade to green with time, as normal healthy growth would. There is no cure for rose rosette disease, so prevention and sanitation are key. Buy disease-free plant material. The wild multiflora rose is very susceptible, and eriophyid mites present on those plants can be a vector to neighboring roses. If possible, remove multiflora rose from the vicinity of neighboring roses. Keep plants healthy by spacing them apart, fertilizing, and prune regularly. If RRD symptoms are noticed, prune and throw away

(continued)

What's Hot!

Welcome to our new plant diagnostician, Jill Pollok. She will be contributing regularly to Hotline and taking over the disease column from Nancy Gregory, who has done an amazing job for many years. We hope to hear from Nancy every so often when she sees something in the landscape she wants to share.

Anthracnose and powdery mildew have been seen on flowering dogwood. Look for more details next week.

Here is the correct link for the upcoming virtual pest walk on June 11: <https://www.pcsreg.com/pests-and-beneficial-insects>



Rose rosette virus witches broom. Photo credit: N. Gregory

For more information

on pests and 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 photos at <https://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals-hotline/archive/>

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Insects (continued)

Green melon aphid can be 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. Green peach aphid can be light to dark green or pinkish to orange. Cornicle color is usually lighter than the color of the aphid's body.

A variety of products are available if control is needed. 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. Natural enemies are returning to and becoming more active on plants under aphid attack as our temperatures start to return to seasonal averages.

Diseases (continued)

those branches immediately. If the symptoms grow back, remove the plant and roots and throw them away (bagged) or burn them. Controlling the eriophyid mites can reduce the risk spread but can be difficult to get good coverage due to their size, and is suggested as a tool to be used along with other cultural controls. Ongoing research into resistance to rose rosette virus is being conducted.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



**GROWING
DEGREE
DAYS**

AS OF May 26, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 349 ('19 = 670)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE) = 333 ('19 = 700)
- Research & Education Center - Gorgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 442 ('19 = 797)



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



Rose rosette virus red foliage. Photo credit: T. Evans