

ORNAMENTALS



• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 12

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel

Ornamental IPM Specialist

LECANIUM SCALES are a group of soft scales. Fletcher scale, *Parthenolecanium fletcheri*, affects coniferous plants such as *Taxus*, arborvitae, junipers and bald cypress. European fruit lecanium, *Parthenolecanium corni*, will infest many broad-leaved woody plants such as redbuds, hawthorns, oaks and dogwoods. Oak lecanium, *Parthenolecanium quercifex*, feeds on oaks. These scales have similar periods of crawler activity in our area. We are still early for peak crawler emergence, but now is a great time to locate swelling or swollen females (producing eggs/oviposited).

Fletcher scale crawlers are active from 310 - 1496 [896 peak] GDD50 and European fruit lecanium crawlers are active from 590 - 1328 [877 peak] GDD50. Scout or monitor populations when they are found for activity on plants you manage. Crawlers are tiny yellowish orange dots and can be observed by striking foliage to a sheet of paper which dislodges unsettled crawlers. Or place double-sided tape around stems near adults and periodically visit during the window of crawler activity. Crawlers settle on the undersides of needles or leaves and feed during the summer. In the fall, the nymphs migrate to stems to overwinter and resume growth in the spring to complete their life cycle. Adult scales look like small round lumps or swollen areas on stems and branches. Soft scales feed on plant sap and their excrement, honeydew, drops onto anything below the feeding sites. Honeydew is a shiny, clear, sticky, sugary liquid that frequently attracts bees, flies, wasps and other insects, or supports a black colored fungus called sooty mold.

A number of parasitoids will attack lecanium scales; so examine scales for tiny exit holes in the scale cover. Lady beetles and lacewings are generalist predators that feed on adults or crawlers. Apply horticultural oil or insecticidal soap during (continued)

DISEASES

Jill Pollok

Plant Diagnostician

PEONY LEAF BLOTCH is caused by the fungus *Graphiopsis chlo-rocephala* (previously called *Cladosporium paeoniae*). This disease is also called peony measles or red spot. Symptoms appear in spring as red or purple spots on the top of leaves and brown underneath, and spots can eventually coalesce and turn into blotches, hence the name. Lesions may appear on stems as well. Leaf blotch rarely kills the whole plant. Red and dwarf varieties are more susceptible to this pathogen than other varieties. To manage, prune to make sure there is good air circulation within (continued)

What's Hot!

Sycamores are finally beginning to leaf out again after getting hit by a late frost. They should recover, but don't look great in the landscape.

Calico scale females are swollen and probably have produced eggs. Use the same products as mentioned for lecanium scale. Calico scale crawler range is 519- 902 [676 peak] GDD50. Crawlers are already out and moving. Look on honey locusts around parking lots (common place to find them).

Bagworms are hatching (peak hatch 580 GDD50; range 364-953). Plan control for a few weeks from now when most have hatched and larvae will still be small. Scout because if trees do not receive sufficient breezes to disperse hatching neonates, a tree could suffer sooner. Look for article next week.

Insects (continued)

crawler activity. Talus and Distance are insect growth regulators available for control and Distance can be mixed with 0.5% horticultural oil for successful control. Neonicotinoids used as a drench need to be applied before crawler activity to provide time to get into the plant. Altus is another product available for control of this scale. Other control products may adversely impact natural enemy populations.

For more information

on pests and practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



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

View more photos at <http://extension.udel.edu.ornamentals/>

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (continued)

and between plants, do not overhead water because that will spread spores. Cut the plants to the ground in the fall and destroy. Do not compost because the fungus overwinters in plant debris. Fungicides may be applied right after flowering but should be used in conjunction with cultural practices.

OAK LEAF BLISTER is a fungal disease caused by *Taphrina caerulescens*. This disease favors cool, wet springs, and almost all oak species are susceptible, but especially those in the red oak family. Symptoms appear as yellow blister-like lesions on the leaf surface and turn brown with age. The leaf is distended outwards on the upper leaf surface and concave on the underside. If the spring weather is cool enough, a severe infection might occur, and can cause leaf loss. Generally, this disease will not impact tree health. Applying a fungicide during bud swelling is enough to control oak leaf blister.



Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

Oak leaf blister. Photo credit: N. Gregory

TURF

John Emerson
Nutrient Management Agent

POST-EMERGENT CONTROL OF CRABGRASS. As temperatures warm and daylength increases, crabgrass seedlings emerged during spring will grow rapidly. Large crabgrass and smooth crabgrass are both common C4, warm season, summer annual grasses. Large crabgrass has a hairy leaf sheath, and smooth crabgrass is smooth and lacking hairs. Both are heavy seed producers so control early before seeding.

Control with quinclorac (90%+ control in one application) in a wide variety of turf species, but bentgrass is susceptible to some injury. MSMA, and DSMA can provide good control, but may injure cool season turf. For cool season turf, apply 2 half rate applications 14 days apart. Don't apply when daytime temperatures exceed 75 degrees. There is little to no threat of herbicide damage on bermudagrass. Fenoxaprop is another control option for most cool season grasses except bentgrass. Fenoxaprop can injure bermudagrass, and zoysiagrass. Select the right herbicide based on the species of grass in your turf.



Smooth crabgrass. Photo credit: Univ. of Missouri



Large crabgrass. Photo credit: Univ. of Missouri

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GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF June 9, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) 625 = ('19 = 961)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE) 607 = ('19 = 995)
- Research & Education Center - Georgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 757 ('19 = 1112)



Peony leaf blotch. Photo credit: N. Gregory



Oak lecanium scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Fletcher scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel