



# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

July 17, 2020

Issue 17

## INSECTS

Brian Kunkel

Ornamental IPM Specialist

TWO SPOTTED SPIDER MITE (*Tetranychus urticae*), is a pest of landscapes and greenhouses. They prefer it hot and dry—a trend that is likely to continue. Plants attacked include: roses, *Euonymus*, *Baptisia*, dogwood, pear, butterfly bush, marigolds, cannas, viburnum, chrysanthemums and many others.

Spider mites inject their mouthparts into plant cells and suck out cell contents causing a flecking or stippled appearance. Heavy infestations decrease plant vigor, and can cause premature leaf drop. Two-spotted spider mites feed on the underside of the leaves, are yellowish green with a spot on either side and adults are active 437 - 3518 [1894 peak] GDD. Females lay an average of about 140 eggs when temperatures exceed 80°F and a generation can be completed in a week.

Sample for spider mites by shaking plant material over a white sheet of paper. Mites will appear as rapidly moving dots and will smear when smashed. Sample at least every other week during the summer. Look for stippling on leaves or webbing, which is found on heavily infested plants. Reflective heat from the sides of buildings or impermeable surfaces can further stress plants and increase spider mite populations. Scout plants in these situations especially if they have a history of mite problems.

Spray plants with a strong stream of water to dislodge some mites and provide relief to water-stressed plants. Predatory mites and other predators feed on two-spotted spider mites, but they may have difficulty keeping populations low under ideal conditions. Horticultural oil, Hexygon, Floramite, Forbid Avid, Kontos, and Sanmite are miticides available for mite control. Pyrethroids and Merit (imidacloprid) are documented to cause increases in mite populations. Use these products only when necessary and closely monitor mite populations after application.

## DISEASES

Jill Pollok

Plant Diagnostician

SEPTORIA LEAF SPOT. Several fungal pathogens cause leaf spots on Rudbeckia, the most common being *Septoria rudbeckiae*.

Symptoms appear as small, dark brown leaf spots that can enlarge up to 1/4 inch in diameter. With a hand lens, you can see tiny pinprick-sized black fungal fruiting bodies within the lesions. Symptoms appear late spring or summer depending on weather. They begin on lower leaves and gradually spread upward in the canopy. With overhead irrigation or rainy weather, spots can coalesce and cover the whole leaf. This disease rarely

(continued)

## *What's Hot!*

Botrytis blight is appearing on petunia and other annuals. Deadhead spent blooms to manage the disease.

Flatids are feeding on many herbaceous plants --no treatment needed as wax will rub off by hand if removal is desired.

Banded longhorn beetles are visiting flowers of sneeze weed, zinnia, hydrangea and others. Adults lay eggs on dead or decaying trees such as oak and hickory. If this beetle is found attacking the tree there are usually other health problems with the tree so treatments for the beetle aren't warranted.

Leaf-tier damage is evident now--treatments not warranted.

## TURF

John Emerson

Nutrient Management Agent

GOOSEGRASS (*Elusine indica*) is a warm-season annual grassy weed found throughout Delaware. It is most prevalent in moist compacted soils, with minimal turf cover. It has a folded/flattened stem with a white base, and a small membranous ligule with a few small hairs at the collar. The seed head forms a raceme and it is a heavy seed producer.

(continued)

*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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Diseases (continued)

kills plants but can be unsightly. Prune and dispose of affected leaves and avoid overhead watering. Collect and dispose of infected crop debris in the fall to reduce spring infection next year; the pathogen overwinters in crop debris. If overhead watering is unavoidable, avoid late afternoon or evening. Fungicides including chlorothalonil, copper compounds, and mancozeb can be effective at halting new infections. Apply when symptoms are first noticed. This disease can be confused with angular leaf spot, a bacterial disease caused by Pseudomonas and Xanthomonas species, but those spots appear angular rather than circular, and have no fruiting bodies within the lesions.

Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist

Turf (continued)

To control culturally, loosen soil compaction with aerification, vertical mowing, or tillage; establish a thick stand of turf; and minimize future compaction. Increase mowing heights to help reduce infestations.

For chemical control, start the season with a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent outbreaks and seed bank accumulation. Oxadiazon is the best option but is labeled for limited turf situations. Read the label to determine if your site is eligible. Dithiopyr, prodiamine, and pendimethalin, are also good options, but split into 2 applications 6-8 weeks apart. Post-emergent control is limited, especially in cool season turf grasses. Only mesotrione, and topramezone provide good control in cool season turf. Apply these herbicides VERY carefully. Read the label for appropriate rates and tolerant species. MSMA, and topramezone are the best option for warm season turfgrasses, such as bermudagrass and zoysia.

\*\*\*Watch for Spotted Lanternfly Adults\*\*\* Over the next few weeks adult activity should begin. Watch for this pest now so we don't overlook this opportunistic hitch hiker when we travel for day or vacation trips.



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EXTENSION

**GROWING  
DEGREE DAYS**  
AS OF July 14, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 1567 ('19 = 1865)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE) = 1512 ('19 = 1886)
- Research & Education Center - Gorgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 1667 ('19 = 2051)



Two banded longhorn beetles "talking" to each other while foraging on a zinnia. Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Septoria leaf spot on rudbeckia. Photo credit: N. Gregory

N Gregory



Goose grass. Photo credit: J. Emerson



Two spotted spider mite. Photo credit: F. Peairs Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

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