

ORNAMENTALS



• H O T L I N E •

July 31, 2020

Issue 19

INSECTS

Brian Kunkel

Ornamental IPM Specialist

These caterpillars, present now cause some defoliation but rarely require treatment.

YELLOWNECKED CATERPILLAR has been observed in Maryland feeding on oak and in Pennsylvania on crabapple. They may feed on honeylocust, beech, birch, maples and many other trees. They have a jet-black head, yellow and black stripes and some white hairs. Directly behind the head is a bright yellow-orange segment. Adults emerge during June-July, mate, and females lay eggs on the undersides of leaves. This caterpillar feeds gregariously, skeletonizing leaves as early instars and consuming most of the leaf when they are older. When disturbed, larvae assume a "U-shaped" defensive posture. Larvae feed between July through September with only one generation per year. Birds, predatory insects, and parasitoids attack this pest.

ORANGESTRIPED OAKWORM feeds gregariously on a variety of oaks such as red, pin, willow and white (less preferred) oaks. Maples can be host plants, but usually when populations are extremely high. Eggs are laid in clusters of about 500 eggs on the underside of leaves and initially skeletonize leaves. Larger caterpillars will consume entire leaves except the midveins. Early instar caterpillars are greenish color with yellowish stripes and black projections looking like horns near the head. Older caterpillars will be black with orange stripes and are frequently found wandering away from hosts looking for places to pupate. Adults emerge in June or July and are orange to brown with a white spot on each forewing. Defoliation from this insect is often noticed in late July or early August.

RED HUMPED CATERPILLAR can be found feeding on apple, cherry, pear, quince, birch, dogwood, redbud, sweetgum and persimmon among others. Adults are nondescript grayish-

DISEASES

Jill Pollok

Plant Diagnostician

POWDERY MILDEW is one of the most common diseases on crape myrtle and is caused by the fungus *Erysiphe lagerstroemiae*. The warm, humid weather we've been having favors this disease. Symptoms appear as patches of white powdery growth on the upper and lower leaf surfaces, flowers, and new shoots. Heavily infected plant parts can appear stunted or distorted, and flowers might fail to open. Crowded growing conditions, shade, and poor air circulation are favorable conditions for this disease, as well as high nighttime humidity with warm, dry days. If only a

(continued)

TURF

John Emerson

Nutrient Management Agent

COOL SEASON SUMMER TURF DISEASES. We have had a long stretch of ideal weather for disease outbreaks in cool season turf. Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) in stands of tall fescue, and Dollar Spot (*Clarireedia jacksonii*) in all other cool season turf species are the major offenders. Either one of these diseases can wreak havoc on a turf stand. Heavy rain events followed by intense heat, and high dew points (69 degrees+) are what keep turf managers up at night. Core aerate in the fall or spring (during active growth) to reduce thatch and compaction. This will create good pore channels and keep water moving through the soil and keep roots oxygenated. If cultural controls are not enough, propiconazole, triticonazole, tebuconazole, chlorothalonil, and fluazinam are all very good products to control both diseases. The first three are all DMI class fungicides (systemic and single site specific with high resistance potentials) and the last two, chlorothalonil and fluazinam are contact fungicides with very low resistance potentials. Avoid applying the same class of fungicide two times in a row to reduce fungicide resistance. Always read and follow the labels.

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)

few shoots are affected, pruning them out can be an effective control. Grow plants in full sun, make sure there is adequate airflow within the canopy, prune out base suckers, and plant resistant varieties. Do not fertilize plants with an active powdery mildew infection, as this will promote succulent new growth that can succumb to the disease. Many varieties are available with powdery mildew resistance (and Cercospora leaf spot tolerance): 'Apalachee,' 'Basham's Party Pink,' 'Caddo,' 'Dodd #2,' 'Fantasy,' 'Glendora White,' 'Hopi,' 'Lipan,' 'Miami,' 'Osage,' 'Pecos,' 'Regal Red,' 'Sarah's Favorite,' 'Sioux,' 'Tonto,' 'Tuscarora,' 'Tuskegee,' 'Velma's Royal Delight' and 'Wichita.' 'Apalachee' and 'Fantasy' have complete resistance to powdery mildew. Chemical control is most effective when applied as a preventative measure before the onset of symptoms. Fungicides containing myclobutanil, propiconazole, thiophanate-methyl, or copper are effective at suppressing this pathogen, and multiple applications may be required.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



GROWING DEGREE DAYS
AS OF July 28, 2020

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) =2007 ('19 = 2257)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County, DE = 1945 ('19 =2299)
- Research & Education Center - Georgetown (Sussex County, DE) = 2110 ('19 =2477)

Insects (continued)

brown and are about a centimeter long. This insect emerges during midsummer and may have multiple generations in a year. The caterpillars feed gregariously and skeletonize leaves when small. Larger caterpillars will eat entire leaves except the midvein. They are yellow with black and white stripes, a red hump and small black non-stinging projections. This caterpillar raises its abdomen when disturbed as a defensive posture.

Predators and parasitoids usually keep the populations of these caterpillars in check; therefore, insecticides are rarely warranted. Defoliation caused by these caterpillars rarely causes harm to the health of the plant. Insecticides available for control include B.t., spinosad, azadirachtin, or one of the pyrethroids.



Brown Patch lesion.
Photo credit: Univ. of MD



Orange striped oakworm - young larvae
Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Dollar spot
Photo credit: Purdue Univ.



Crape myrtle powdery mildew
Photo credit: N. Gregory



Orange striped oakworm
Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Redhumped caterpillar
Photo credit: B. Kunkel



Yellownecked caterpillar.
Photo credit: G. Lenhard, LSU