

ORNAMENTALS

• H O R T I C U L T U R A L •

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Issue 26

INSECTS

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RECORD KEEPING. Fall has finally arrived, and it is time for record keeping round-up! This growing season is rapidly concluding for landscape and nursery plants and most insects are dying off or entering diapause. Some insects and other arthropods will continue to feed for a few more weeks until early winter. Now is a good time to record which plants had pests, and to evaluate the efficacy of your management programs. Pesticide efficacy against armored scale is easily observed now. Scouting plants in the landscape now or shortly after leaf drop may reveal insect populations that have not caused serious problems, but their 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.

CRAPE MYRTLE BARK SCALE is an exotic invasive insect that has piercing-sucking mouthparts and feeds on crape myrtle, American beautyberry, apple, flowering quince, Southern crabapple, and possibly others. This pest was discussed at last winter's Hort Expo (2020) and has been found infesting crape myrtles in Sussex County. This scale is not a soft or an armored scale, but a felt scale. They may have multiple generations a year and they produce honeydew. Drench applications of dinotefuran provide great control in container grown plants and works well

DISEASES

Jill Pollok
Plant Diagnostician

(continued)

FALL NEEDLE DROP is occurring right now in the oldest needles of conifers. Similar to deciduous trees, this is a physiological response to shorter days and cool nights. Evergreen needles have varying life spans and will eventually turn yellow and drop off. Pines, arborvitae, spruce, and fir start shedding needles in August and continue into October. We're seeing quite a bit of yellowing/browning/shedding on white pines and arborvitae right now. Needle drop will occur uniformly throughout the whole canopy (top to bottom), and the newest growth stays green. Arborvitae branchlets remain on the tree for some time before falling. Summer weather conditions and the health of an individual tree can affect how dramatic this shedding will be. Needle loss or browning at the tips of branches, at other times of the year, or not uniformly throughout the canopy could be an indication of a disease or pest issue and is not an indication of seasonal needle drop.

(continued)

What's Hot!

Equipment maintenance and a late season calibration are useful activities to perform prior to storing tools away for the winter.

It is important to continue scouting for spotted lanternfly and destroying any egg masses found. This insect will continue to feed and oviposit for another couple weeks at most or until a couple hard freezes occur.



Needle yellowing on white pine. Photo credit: J. Pollok

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/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Diseases (continued)

SANITATION. Now is the time to be implementing good sanitation practices to reduce the potential for diseases in the spring. Rake up and dispose of fallen leaves, twigs, fruit, and buds, especially from plants with diseases during the growing season. Many pathogens overwinter on dead plant material and can cause infection in the spring. Prune out cankers a minimum of four inches below any noticeable symptoms. Clean tools between each cut with a sanitizer, such as a mixture of 1 part household bleach to 9 parts water or rubbing alcohol. Remove weeds, as they can serve as alternate hosts for certain pathogens. Diseased plant material should be burned, buried, or removed with yard waste, and not composted.

Insects (continued)

in the landscape. Insect growth regulators targeting crawlers also provide good control. Lady beetles can help manage populations so products that are friendly towards non-targets are recommended. This scale insect is difficult to detect on plants if their population is low; therefore, close inspection of crape myrtles is needed on new plants in nurseries or those found in landscapes. We are unsure how many generations we will have per year so vigilance will be important to stay ahead of the insect. Next spring, I will have an early Hotline article that discusses this in more detail with updated information. Stay tuned!

Thanks to all subscribers for a great 2020 season!

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



**GROWING
DEGREE DAYS**
AS OF October 27, 2020

- Swarthmore College
Delaware County, PA = 3687 ('19 =NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse
(New Castle County, DE = 3609 ('19 =NA)
- Research & Education Center - Georgetown
(Sussex County, DE) = 3898 ('19 =NA)



Crape myrtle scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel and J. Pollok



Crape myrtle scale. Photo credit: T. Wootten



Crape myrtle scale. Photo credit: B. Kunkel and J. Pollok



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