



**TPM/IPM Weekly Report for Arborists,  
Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension  
Central Maryland Research and Education Center**

**April 29, 2005**

Stanton Gill (Entomologist), Paula Shrewsbury (Entomologist) and Ethel Dutky (Pathologist), Chuck Schuster (Extension Educator), Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator), and Suzanne Klick (Technician)

**Questions? Give us a call at 301-596- 9413**

**Boxwood leafminer**

We examined foliage at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center this week and so far we have not seen the pupal cases projecting from the bottom of the leaves of boxwood meaning no adult leafminer emergence yet.

**Monitoring:** If you see brown, cigar-shaped pupal cases sticking out the bottom of the foliage give us a call or send an e-mail and let us know in what part of the state you are seeing the activity.

**Control:** Systemic insecticides such as Merit can be applied to the soil. In nurseries either Marathon or Flagship can be used as a soil drench.

**Boxwood psyllid**

We found boxwood psyllid nymphs on the boxwoods here at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Ellicott City on April 25<sup>th</sup> and in Frederick on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Monitoring:** Look for white wax on the tip growth of boxwood.

**Control:** Not necessary.



Cupping of leaf from boxwood psyllid



Boxwood psyllid

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### **Honeylocust – Spider mites**

We found honeylocust spider mites hatching in Olney on April 26 on honeylocust trees. This mite is a problem if the honeylocusts are growing in hot sunny locations.

**Control:** Avid, 1% horticultural oil, 1% horticultural oil and Hexagon or Tetrasan should give good control.

### **Hawthorn lace bug**

Hawthorn lace bugs overwinter as adults. We are seeing activity from adults on cotoneaster at the Central Maryland Research and Education center this week. We have not found eggs on the foliage yet but adults are on the plants. Brian Bly with Thrive Plant Health Care reported lace bugs active on cotoneaster on April 28<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, VA.



### **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halymorpha halys***

Lori Young of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension office in Washington County reports that they are receiving several calls from homeowners with marmorated stink bugs active in their houses this week. The stink bug is native to China, Japan and Korea and moved in the United States a couple of years ago. The adults overwinter in people's houses and become active when weather warms up as they try to get outside to lay eggs. The adults feed on butterfly bush, apple, cherry and soybean, among other plants.



Brown Marmorated stink bug is a relatively new pest introduction in the mid-Atlantic region. Studies are currently being conducted to determine the host plant range and damage potential of this insect. If you find the stink bug in your area give us a call at 301-596-9413 or let MDA know at 410-841-5920. For more information go to:

[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/pest/pdfs/stink\\_bug\\_pest\\_alert.pdf](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/pest/pdfs/stink_bug_pest_alert.pdf)

### **Lilac Borer**

Nurseries in Maryland are growing several species of lilac so there is interest in when the lilac borer adults start their flight activity. We have not picked up any adults in our traps in Clarksville, Maryland. I called Marty Adams to see if he found any adults in his trap in Westminster and his traps are empty so far.

**Monitoring:** You can place out clear wing borer pheromone traps to see if you have activity in your area.

**Control:** In the nursery, apply Onyx to the bark of lilacs. In the landscape you can use Onyx or Astro.

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### **White grubs**

We are getting reports from several parts of the state that scarab beetle grubs are in the upper 3 - 4 inches of the soil profile this week. Treatment should not be necessary. Grass is vigorous at this time of year and can tolerate feeding by white grubs. Also grubs should be feeding for a very short time before they start to pupate. We should see adult beetles such as the Japanese beetle sometime in early June.

### **Spittlebugs**

John Speaker reported spittlebugs on upright white pine in Gaithersburg on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Control:** Damage is usually not significant enough to require control measures.



### **Lace bug – hatch this week**

We knew that they should be hatching soon and we received the first confirmation of azalea lace bug hatch in the Gude Gardens at Brookside Gardens. John Speaker found newly hatched nymphs on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. This is about 2 -3 weeks later than most seasons.

**Monitoring:** Check the undersides of foliage of nymphs. They feed in clusters along the midrib vein in the early instars.

### **Holly leafminers**

Larvae are starting to pupate in Central Maryland this week.

**Monitoring:** Examine foliage over the next week or two look for exit holes on the foliage. The adults emerge as the American holly come into bloom and are active for about 2 weeks.

**Control:** Control is usually not warranted.

### **Eastern tent caterpillars**

More larvae have been reported by Rick LaNore in LaPlata and Huntingdon on April 17<sup>th</sup> on wild cherry. *Cornus florida* was in full bract and *Cercis canadensis* is in full bloom. Ginny Rosenkranz reported larvae that were ¼” to ½” in size in Salisbury on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The tents are about 3 – 4” across.

### **Cankerworms**

Rick LaNore found cankerworm larvae on *Quercus alba* (white oak) on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Waldorf. Amure maple (*Acer ginnala*) was in full bloom. The buds of some of the early azaleas were showing color.

**Monitoring:** Look for “shothole” feeding damage on foliage. Shake branches and watch for small green or tan caterpillars silking from branches.

**Control:** If damage is heavy, treat foliage with Confirm or Conserve.

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### **Imported willow leaf beetle**

Marty Adams found imported willow leaf beetle larvae on *Salix matsudana* 'Contorta' (corkscrew willow) in Ellicott City on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Monitoring:** Look for skeletonization and shothole feeding damage.

**Control:** If larvae are early instars, treat with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) var. *tenebrionis* (sold as Novodor). Note: this is a different Bt than is used on caterpillars. Acephate (orthene), bifenthrin (Talstar), or spinosad (Conserve) should control all stages of the leaf beetle.

### **Landscape Mulches and Subterranean Termites (2003)**

Catherine Long, Graduate Student, University of Maryland, College Park

Like daffodils and dogwoods, fresh mulch is a harbinger of Spring. Whether it's traditional favorites like shredded hardwood and pine bark or specialty products like pine straw and cedar bark, gardeners and landscapers depend on organic mulches to conserve water, reduce weeds, and give gardens a tidy, orderly appearance. Subterranean termites are notorious for tunneling into wood items that are in direct contact with the soil, such as planters, fences, and trellises, and gaining access to homes via these exterior fixtures. Homeowners, mindful of this well-earned reputation, often question whether wood and bark mulches can attract and support foraging termites.

Field research at the University of Maryland, College Park, indicates that organic mulches do not attract termites to the underlying soil, nor will the termites consume mulches in any great quantity. Termites have been observed within newly purchased bags of moist mulch, as well as bags that had been allowed to sit undisturbed for a while. The warm, wet environment of these full bags is ideal for the termites, but such conditions do not exist when the mulch is applied to its recommended depth of 3-4 inches. However, foraging termites can travel within the mulch layer and could theoretically use the mulch as a bridge up over a termiticide treatment around a foundation and into a home. For this reason, it is recommended that a band of bare soil be left around foundations. Surprisingly, even pea gravel perimeters should be avoided. Termites have been shown to feed more actively at resources beneath inorganic gravel mulches, presumably because gravel and stone mulches create a cool, moist, "shadow" underground where the insects can take refuge during the heat of summer.



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## Bark beetles

Damian Varga found bark beetle adults on white pine in Marriottsville on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The pines had exit holes. Bradford pear was in full bloom.

## Hemlock Adelgid, *Adelges tsugae* – crawlers still active this week

**Plants damaged:** *Tsuga* spp. (Eastern and Carolina hemlock)

**Damage:** The insect extract plant juices from the phloem tissues that weaken plant, causing yellowing of needles and decline and death of the tree

**Description and life cycle:** Hemlock wooly adelgid is a cool weather insect that completes most of its development from October through June. Mature females overwinter at the base of hemlock needles and are flat, oval and black in color. Mature females produce copious amounts of bright white wax in April and May that is very noticeable. Eggs hatch and the first instars are mobile and will seek out a new feeding site on the hemlock. The first instars settle at the base of needles and feed. There are four nymphal instars. A second generation can occur in October with females producing white wax in October.



**Monitoring:** Examine the base of needles of hemlocks in winter looking for the black, oval shaped females. Look for white wax produced by females in April and May and again in October.

## Biological Control

Two ladybugs, *Scymnus ningshanensis* and *Pseudoscymnus tsugae*, have been introduced and feed on hemlock wooly adelgid. A derodontid beetle, *Laricobius nigrinus*, has also been introduced to control this pest.

**Control:** Small trees can have applications of horticultural oil or insecticidal soap applied to the foliage. Larger tree should have soil injections or drench of a neonicotinoid such as imidacloprid (Merit) or dinofluorfen (Safari).



*Scymnus ningshanensis* Guangwu Li, Chinese Academy of Forestry, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)



*Pseudoscymnus tsugae* (lady beetle)  
Dennis J Souto-US Forest Service  
[www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

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## What is in bloom?

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Plant Stage</b> (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	<b>Location and Degree Days (DD)</b> (Location in parenthesis indicates degree day site close to reported site of bloom)
<i>Acer ginnala</i> (Amure maple)	Full bloom (Waldorf – April 23)	212 DD
<i>Amelanchier nantucketensis</i> (Nantucket serviceberry)	First bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (Redbud)	Full bloom (LaPlata, Huntingdon – April 17) Full bloom (Salisbury – April 26)	131 DD (Waldorf)
<i>Cercis chinensis</i> (Chinese Redbud)	Full bloom (Salisbury – April 26)	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	First bud (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Croton alabamense</i> (Alabama croton)	First bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering dogwood)	Full bloom (LaPlata, Huntingdon – April 17) (Salisbury – April 26)	131 DD (Waldorf)
<i>Dentaria lacinata</i>		
<i>Fothergilla gardenia</i> ‘Mt Airy’ (Dwarf fothergilla)	Full bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Halesia diptera</i> (Two-winged silverbell)	Full bloom (Ellicott City – April 25)	247 DD
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> (Dame’s rocket)	Full bloom (Ellicott City – April 25)	247 DD
<i>Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i>	Full bloom (Salisbury – April 26)	
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> (Wild blue phlox)	Full bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i> (Creeping phlox)	First bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Prunus amygdalus</i> (Flowering Almond)	Full bloom (Salisbury – April 26)	
<i>Quercus palustris</i> (Pin Oak)	Full bloom (Salisbury – April 26)	
Sassafras	First bloom (Towson – April 19)	
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> Sycamore	First leaf (Ellicott City – April 26)	256 DD
<i>Trillium erectum</i> (Red trillium)	First bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i> (Snow trillium)	Full bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	
<i>Trillium luteum</i> (Yellow trillium)	First bloom (Silver Run – April 22)	

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**Degree Day Information (as of April 28, 2005):** The regular list of sites will be included next week.

Ellicott City	271
Waldorf	244
Washington DC	258

**Wild Violet (*Viola pratincola*)**

The wild violet is winter perennial found in ornamental beds and turf throughout most of the United States. It will grow 2 to 5 inches in height and reproduces through stolons and rhizomes. The violet may also have a taproot or fibrous root system. The flowers of the wild violet can range from white to purple and are appearing at this time through June. Control in turf will require the use of a post-emergent broadleaf herbicide but may require more than one application. Control in ornamental beds will require the use of glyphosate products and may require more than one application.



Photo courtesy of [weedalert.com](http://weedalert.com)

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