



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

October 27, 2006

Regular Contributors:

Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Stanton Gill and Paula Shrewsbury

Disease Information: Ethel Dutky, David Clement, and Rich Anacker (MDA)

Weed of the Week: Chuck Schuster

Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz

Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey

Final Report This Week

This is our final weekly electronic IPM report for 2006. Let your professional associations know if this week electronic report has helped you in your work. We rely on their financial support for this project to be worked on by our faculty and staff. We want to thank LCA, FALCAN, PGMS, MNLA, and MAA for their financial support in 2006 to support this electronic report. We hope to be serving you again in March of 2007. You will receive the December 15, 2006 Pest Management Conference schedule in an upcoming e-mail. Thank you to each of you who actively participated in this year's weekly reports. **Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist**

Ornamental Grasses in Turf

Mark Schlossberg is seeing more ornamental grasses showing up in turfgrass situations. The ornamental grasses are shredded when mowed. Is anyone experiencing this same problem? If so, which species are you finding? Let us know at sklick@umd.edu.

Giant Bark Aphid

We are receiving reports of the giant bark aphid on white pine this week. This aphid is one of the largest in the area. It can be found in high numbers at this time of year and stays around until the weather gets very cold.



Update on Emerald Ash Borer

MDA is still working on delineating the areas for ash survey in Prince George's County. They have started taking down some ash trees in communities surrounding the area where infested ash trees have been found.

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Plant of the Week

Winter is quickly approaching with cold weather coloring the foliage of many deciduous trees and shrubs. Soon the leaves will blow off the trees leaving the lovely silhouettes of trunk and branch to shine in the sunlight. Other plants will shine even more due to brightly colored berries that may last far into the winter. *Ilex verticillata*, Winterberry, is one plant that actually looks better without any of the leaves on! Like all holly, only the female plants are adorned with the bright fruit, but it is always an excellent idea to have a male holly of the same cultivar to insure the winter bounty. *Ilex verticillata* are large native shrubs, growing up 6 to 10 feet tall and wide and by October are almost covered with bright red fruit. This holly grows well in zone 7 and slowly develops into multi-stemmed clumps in light or heavy soils as long as there is good organic matter, an acid pH and moisture available. Because these hollies have few disease or insect pests, they will grow well in many landscapes either in small groups or in large mass plantings. There are many excellent cultivars including 'Red Sprite' and 'Winter Red'. Male pollinators include 'Southern Gentleman' and 'Jim Dandy'. Many hybrids (*Ilex verticillata* x *Ilex serrata*) have been bred which seem to have more vigor, heavier fruiting and earlier fruiting. Some of the outstanding hybrids include 'Sparkleberry', 'Bonfire' with 'Apollo' as the male pollinator.



Weed of the Week

Jointhead Arthraxon, *Arthraxon hispidus*, is a low growing annual grass found throughout this region. This weed has broad (.75 inches wide) leaves that are 2.5 inches long. Pubescence will be found at the leaf bases and along the margin. The leaf base encircles the leaf sheath. The roots of jointhead arthraxon are fibrous, and the plant will root from the leaf sheaths at the nodes. Flowers form as spikelets that appear to be fingers.

This plant prefers sunny exposures. Classified as an invasive weed in some states, it can be found in turf and landscape settings. Control of this weed in turf can be accomplished using products labeled for crabgrass pre emergent control (pendimethalin, dithopyr, prodiamine, oxadiazon). Mowing to prevent seed head production will reduce plant density in following years. Post emergent non selective herbicides work effectively in landscaped areas.



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Green Roof Conference

We have close to 90 people signed up for the Green Roof Seminar that will be held at Brookside Gardens on Nov 16 and 17, 2006. The tour of green roof at the two sites is filled at this point, but we can still accommodate people who want to register for the lectures on the first day. Call Andrew Ristvey at 410-827-8056 for more information.

Pest Management Conference - December 15, 2006

We will be moving the Pest Management Conference to Montgomery College in Germantown for 2006. In 2004 and 2005 this program was held at Carroll Community College. We like to move this conference around the state to make it more convenient for the green industry. We have submitted the program for pesticide recertification, nutrient management and ISA credits. We will put out the brochure soon, but mark your calendars now.

Our Plant Pathologist, Ethel Dutky, Is Retiring

Ethel Dutky, our University of Maryland Cooperative Extension plant pathologist will officially retire at the end of 2006. Many of you have relied on Ethel's fast diagnostic turn around to help solve disease problems in the nursery, greenhouse and landscape. Ethel has been a regular contributor to this weekly electronic IPM report. We will miss Ethel. There will be a retirement celebration for Ethel on Friday, December 1st at Brookside Gardens from 11:30 – 3:30. Reservations are required. **If you would like to attend, please contact Shannon at 301-596-9413 or swadkins@umd.edu.**

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