



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

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

Weed of the Week: Chuck Schuster

Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz

Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey

We need you – please call in if you are finding insect, disease, weed cultural plant problems. Your input will help us keep this weekly report up on the leading edge. Send submissions to Sklick@umd.edu or Call Stanton Gill at 301-596-9413. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you.

Aquatic Pest – China Mark Moth

Water lily plants usually have water lily aphids in spring, but China Mark moth damages water lilies into the fall months. We are in the 3rd generation of China Mark moth in late September. The larva of the china mark moth is green and is encased between two leaf pieces of the water lily. The larva overwinters by moving down the leaf petiole of the water lily and attaches itself underwater to the petiole. Next spring when the weather warms up and water lily foliage starts to emerge, the caterpillar encased in the leaf pieces floats to the surface and starts chewing on the leaves. In studies conducted at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center, we found that thin leaf water lilies and variegated leaf varieties were most heavily damaged.

Control: Not much is labeled for use in water or in ornamental ponds. In our trials at CMREC we found Bt and Spinosad (Conserve) to be very effective in controlling this pest. Since most people grow water lilies in pots what some people have down is remove the water lilies from the pool, treat it with Bt or Conserve, let it dry and then replace the plant into the pool. This appears to work and would be a legal method of dealing with the pest.



Damage on water lily from china mark moth larvae



China mark moth larva

New Fact Sheet on China Mark Moth is Coming: Very soon we will have a new fact sheet out on the life cycle of China Mark moth and control suggestions. We hope to have it available in the next couple of weeks. Contact us at 301-596-9413 if you would like a copy.

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Spruce Spider Mites

We are finding nymphs and adults of spruce spider mite in Rockville, Germantown, Westminster, and Annapolis this week on Alberta Spruce. Monitor plants by placing a white paper on a clip board and wrap the branch over the white paper to see the spider mites.

Control: Horticultural oil (do not use this on blue spruce or it will take out the color), Avid, Floramite, Akari, Forbid.



Praying Mantids

Many landscape managers are reporting seeing lots of activity of praying mantids this month. The females are large and most have mated at this point. The female will start laying egg masses on branches of landscape plants over the next couple of weeks. Many landscape managers say that the female mantids like to lay egg masses on Leyland cypress branches. This is great since there are so many Leyland cypress trees around in the landscapes.



Hickory Horned Devil – A Giant Caterpillar

John Rich found a giant hickory horned devil caterpillar in his driveway this week. They are large (up to 5" in length) with giant horns, but they are harmless. Enjoy the caterpillar and it will form a cocoon in the next week or two and will spend the winter as a pupa.



Flying Ants

Citrus or lemon ant activity is being reported by several landscape managers. The winged forms are out this week. Activity is highest just after a rain storm. The ants are reddish brown and when crushed have a citrus or lemon odor. The winged forms (alates) are out in the fall and fly about the landscape looking for a date and a mate (yes, they are committed ants). They are harmless and control is not necessary, but your customer may think they have termites. You can show them that the ants have a pinched waist and the forewings are longer than the hind wings. Also, crush one and you will smell the citrus odor. Winged (alate) termites are usually out in April and May and the forewing and hind wing are of equal length. The latin name for the order that termites are in is "Isoptera" which means equal-winged.

White Prunicola Scale

Examine cherry, and lilac for the presence of white prunicola scale. The females are circular with a yellow center. The white peach scale looks somewhat similar but the round shaped female cover has a yellow-brown center and this scale is found mainly on mulberry trees. The white prunicola scale is still producing crawlers this week.

Control: Use the IGR Distance.

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Locust Borer (*Megacyllene robiniae*)

We are finding adults of the locust borer feeding on the pollen of goldenrod flowers which is typical of this native insect at this time of year. The larvae of the locust borer feed only on black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). The adult lays eggs in bark crevices. The larva hatch in fall and begin to feed, but they do not move into the heartwood until spring. There is one generation per year. Damage is less severe in mixed stands of species and on trees over 6” in diameter receiving adequate water.

Control: Eliminate goldenrod growth near desirable black locusts. Apply a labeled residual insecticide to the bark of black locust in September if you see adults laying eggs.



Plant of the Week

The fall blooming Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*) is a smaller, more delicate version of the spring blooming camellia, and a bit less winter hardy, handling cold to a zone 7. It is, however, a delight in the landscape from September until the coldest frosts in late December when it is covered with flowers and the ground is littered with fallen petals. *Camellia sasanqua* prefers to grow in full sun and needs protection from winter winds. It can handle acid soils with high organic matter and the roots, which are near the surface, will need to be mulched to prevent winter damage. The evergreen leaves follow the description of the plant itself, more delicate than *Camellia japonica*, dark green and very shiny. Plants are attacked in the summer by cottony camellia scale and the foliage can become disfigured in the spring by *Exobasidium* leaf gall. However, when the plant blooms in the fall, all the other problems are often forgotten. The best feature of the fall blooming camellia is that the flowers will bloom consistently from early fall until December. ‘Bonanza’ flowers are large and deep red in color and the plant stays in an even round shape all year long. ‘Yuletide’ has a bright red flower shaped like a peony with vibrant yellow stamens. ‘Carolina Moonmist’ has large pink to rose-colored flowers and is the most cold tolerant of all the fall camellias. ‘Setsugekka’ has pure white semi double flowers that have large ruffled petals.

Weed of the Week

Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*, is a common winter annual weed. Found throughout the eastern United States, it is member of the mustard family. This weed can be found in both lawns and landscapes. Germination of this winter annual (sometimes a biennial) will occur in late fall to early winter. It can become one of the early weeds noticed in the spring. The seedling leaves are egg shaped and are attached to the rosette on long stalks. The leaves will have a small notch near the tip. True leaves are alternate, dark green and shiny, and become toothed with maturity. The terminal lobes have a heart shaped base. Leaves can be two to eight inches in length and differ from wild radish as the radish will have stiff hairs covering the leaf. Yellow Rocket will have a taproot, with fibrous hairs radiating from it. Control can be achieved



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through the use of post emergent applications of 2, 4D and or Dicamba. Mow to prevent this weed from reaching maturity and seed production is also useful. Photo courtesy of Virginia Tech

Plant	Plant Stage (Bud with color, first bloom, full bloom, first leaf)	Location
<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i> 'Chocolate'	First Bloom (9/17)	Silver Run
<i>Franklinia alatomaha</i>	Full Bloom (9/17)	Ellicott City

Degree Day Information (as of 9/21):

Baltimore, MD (BWI)	3552
Hagerstown, MD	3167
Mechanicsville, MD	3282
National Arboretum	3766
Salisbury	3210

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