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**Integrated Pest Management
for Commercial Horticulture**
extension.umd.edu/ipm

If you work for a commercial horticultural business in the area, you can report insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems (**include location and insect stage**) found in the landscape or nursery to sklick@umd.edu

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Get Your Name in the Weekly IPM Report

Whether you would like to be a regular contributor or you see something interesting (or worrying) during the season, please reach out and submit photos and observations. [Please go to the article on how to submit pest and plant problems.](#)

**Now is the Time to Check Boxwood Plants for Box Tree Moth
(*Cydalima perspectalis*)**

By: Suzanne Klick and Laura Nixon

The first confirmed report of box tree moth in Maryland was in Washington County, MD in July 2025. This insect pest overwinters as larvae that are about ½ inch in size. The larvae are within hard-to-find hibernaculum that have a sheer, water-resistant covering. Larvae feed from the inside area of the leaf to the outside edge leaving the outer leaf rims on the plant. When finished feeding on leaves, the caterpillars can also feed on the bark causing branches to become brittle and dry. The caterpillars will start to become active in March when temperatures are around 50 °F. The predictive model for 2026 shows the potential for some caterpillars to become active starting March 7th, however, emergence will ramp up beginning March 21st after an accumulation of warmer days throughout the month. Box tree moth larvae damage plants very quickly. If you find overwintering hibernaculum or viable larvae in March, treat immediately with a residual insecticide. For Spring treatment, we recommend chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn), as it has a long residual and is safe for pollinators. Pruning and spring clean-up can help prevent the spread

of box tree moth by preventing larvae from becoming adults. When small larvae are found during the growing season, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and *B. thuringiensis aizawai* (Bta) can be used. Be sure to get thorough coverage of the plant. Follow label directions closely to be sure you do not apply a control material that impacts pollinators when boxwood plants are in bloom.

We are doing phenology work in Maryland this year to determine when each stage is active and how many generations box tree moth has in Maryland. Traps and pheromone lures can be purchased to help establish if box tree moth is present in your area and when adults are active. Place pheromone traps out starting in early May to monitor for first flight activity of adults.

Continue to monitor plants and traps if set out in the nursery or landscape. Another generation of larvae will be active starting in July and into October. Based on 2025 tracking of this pest, Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware, reports that the number of actively feeding larvae decreased significantly in late September as the larvae created their hibernaculum.

If you find box tree moth adults or caterpillars, take clear photos and report it to the IPM report and/or MDA.



**Close up of a boxwood with a heavy infestation of the invasive box tree moth. Note the high number of caterpillars and damage. (July 2025)
Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD**



**Typical "curlicue" feeding damage caused to boxwood by box tree moth.
Photo: Joe Boggs, OSU**

Vole, Rabbit, Winter, Salt Damage Will Show Up This Spring

By: Suzanne Klick and Dave Clement

The weather this winter will impact plants this spring as they begin to leaf out and flower. With persistent snow cover this year, look for gnawed trunks and girdling damage caused by rabbits, voles, and other small rodents on shrubs and small trees as you scout this spring. The snow provided protection from predators for small mammals to feed higher on plants. There were long, cold periods and salt was spread on roadways during the snowstorms this winter. Look for plants that are stunted, discolored, fail to leaf out, or have woody plant tips that are dead.

Salt damage in turf often occurs along the edges of sidewalks. Look for a distinct brown area showing up against greener turf that is farther away from the sidewalk or paved area. Rain will help leach the salt through the soil and the brown areas will green up again.



Look for vole damage and girdling of woody stems this spring after extended periods of snow cover this winter.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Vole trails made under the snow may show up in turf areas this spring.
Photo: Dave Clement, UME

Ambrosia Beetles

We will be setting out an ambrosia beetle trap here at the research center in Ellicott City this month. Adults are active when the temperature reaches 70 °F for 2 – 3 days. In Central Maryland, temperatures are forecasted to be above 70 °F for several days early next week.

Alcohol-infused wood bolts can be used to indicate when beetles are boring into trees. Monitor for adult activity as indicated by wet areas and small round holes in the trunks of host trees, sometimes with sawdust around them, and/or "toothpick-like" structures made of sawdust project out of tree trunks

Control: When ambrosia beetles are active, Astro, Permethrin Pro (permethrins), and Onyx (bifenthrin) are registered for use on tree trunks in the landscape. For field-grown trees in nurseries, Perm-up (permethrin) is an option. OnyxPro (bifenthrin) is labeled for use to apply to tree trunks in landscape and nursery sites.

Wet areas on trunks and a little frass around the entry holes indicate ambrosia beetle activity.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Penn State Disease Update

By Kari Peter, Penn State

Peach Leaf Curl - Limited Time For Control

Stone fruit will most likely be most sensitive to this upcoming warm spell. If you did not apply your peach leaf curl sprays in late fall, it's recommended that you do so as soon as possible. Peach leaf curl spores are exposed when the leaves are no longer on the trees. This is your only time to manage the disease. If you have waited until late dormancy to apply the fungicide, monitor temperatures and bud development closely, and apply your fungicide as soon as possible. These forecasted warm days may be enough to encourage bud swell in early varieties, so late winter fungicide applications after the warm spell may be ineffective in controlling peach leaf curl because swollen buds will protect the spores. The following fungicides can be used: copper, ziram, lime sulfur, or chlorothalonil.

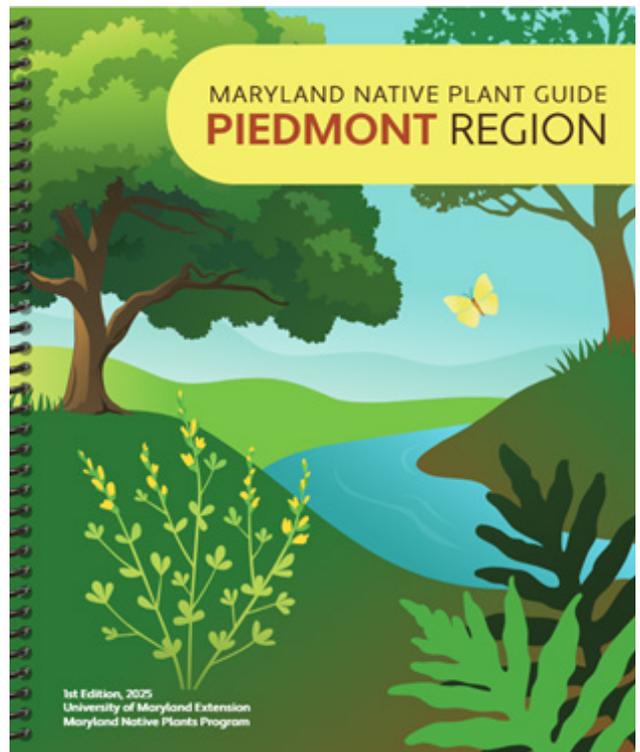
The [full Disease Update for March 2, 2026](#) is available on the Penn State website.

Check Out the New UME Publication – Maryland Native Plant Guide

Lisa Kuder, University of Maryland Extension (UME) Native Plants & Landscapes Specialist, with several other members of the Maryland Native Plants Extension program, recently published the [Maryland Native Plant Guide](#) which is available on-line with hard copy availability to come. This guide is an amazing tool and information resource for native plant enthusiasts, both novice and experienced, plant managers, and landscape designers. It is the first in a series of three native plant guides covering the Environmental Protection agency (EPA) Level II ecoregions in Maryland: Mountain, Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The new native plant guide that was recently published by University of Maryland Extension (UME) Maryland Native Plants Extension program.

The Maryland Native Plant Guide Piedmont Region includes:

- educational articles to support gardening success
- photos and descriptions of 300+ featured plants
- plant lists for specific site conditions
- aquatic plants suitable for ponds
- advice on managing invasive species
- planting approaches in the face of climate change
- an index of plants native to the Maryland Piedmont
- planting strategies
- tips for dealing with deer (including deer resistant plants)



Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

<http://extension.umd.edu/ipm>

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