UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

TPM/IPM Weekly Report

for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers

Commercial Horticulture **June 17, 2026**

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Pest Predictive Calendar
Degree Days
Conferences

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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Disease Information: David Clement (Extension Specialist) and Ana Cristina Fulladolsa (Plant Pathologist and Director, UMD Diagnostic Lab)
Weed of the Week: Kelly Nichols and Nathan Glenn, (UME Extension Educators) and Dan Buonaiuto, (Assistant Professor), Dept. of Plant Sciences and Architecture
Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)
Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey (Extension Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)
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Save the Date

Stanton A. Gill Symposium: Focus on Biological Control
August 4 and 5, 2026
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City

June 23, 2026 IPM Scouts' Diagnostic Session
Time: 12:30 - 3:00
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City

The link to register for this program is on our Conferences' web page

Beech Leaf Disease Updates

By: David L. Clement

We've been receiving more reports of Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) recently as this new disease continues to spread across Maryland. Last week we received news of suspect symptoms in several new counties. To report symptoms of Beech Leaf Disease data can be entered on the Tree Health Survey app (https://treehealthapp) or reported by email to fpm.mda@maryland.gov. In our region, Bartlett Tree Company has had experience with treatment options in nurseries and landscapes across the country and these will be highlighted at the Maryland Arborist Association's Twilight Pest Conference, June 25, at Hood College in Frederick from 5:50 – 8pm. Please register online with Arborist Association at Register at **https://events.humanitix.com/bldtraining2026**

Typical light and dark banding sypmtoms of beech leaf disease.
Photo: David Clement, UME

Management of BLD

There are no cultural practices that can limit the spread and severity of BLD. Removal of infected trees will not eradicate this disease from infested sites. The three best management tools that should be applied before mid-July, which are available through licensed professionals, are phosphite product soil drenches, foliar sprays of the locally systemic nematicide fluopyram, (one of the active ingredients found in Broadform), and root flair injections with product formulations of thiabendazole hypophosphite (Arbotect 20-S) before mid-July. Arbotect 20-S has an exemption for use on BLD in Maryland.

Cypress Twig Midge Galls

By: Suzanne Klick

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding first generation cypress twig midge galls on bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) this week. The galls form at the base of the leaflets and are caused by the fly, *Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa*.

Control: These galls reduce the aesthetic appearance of the trees but seldom cause enough damage to impact the overall health of the tree. In his article on this gall, Joe Boggs, Ohio State University, notes that "it appears the genetics of some trees makes them very susceptible to gall formation. It's common for one bald cypress tree to be heavily galled year-after-year while nearby trees remain free of galls." Pruning can be done to reduce the number of galls present and will help reduce the population levels of the second generation later in the summer. There are several species of wasps that parasitize gall-forming insects and help reduce the number of galls formed. Chemical controls are not recommended because once the galls have formed, the control material will not be able to make contact with the midge larvae within them.

Look for first generation cypress twig galls on bald cypress.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Japanese Beetle

By: Laura Nixon

Although we haven't had any reports of Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) yet, most locations in Maryland have surpassed the 1026 DD at which we expect to see adult emergence. Japanese beetle adults are highly defoliating on host plants, with preferred landscape plants including lindens, roses, Prunus (cherries, peaches, etc.), elms, and some poplar and maple species. The larval stage (grubs) feed on plant roots as they develop, causing pest issues in lawns and turf sites.

A Japanese beetle feeding on a hibiscus flower. Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Life cycle and the weather: Adult Japanese beetle emerge in mid- to late June, and very quickly mate and lay eggs in the soil. These eggs hatch and develop into grubs through the summer, and overwinter there, to emerge the following summer. This year's Japanese beetle adults are developed from last year's egg hatch. The eggs and newly hatched grubs require adequate soil moisture or they will not develop. Since Maryland (and the wider region) has been sitting in a moderate to severe drought for the past couple of years, I've had a lot of people ask if Japanese beetle populations will be reduced this year. When looking at last year's rainfall records for the State, June and July were around the average amount, which will have helped egg and larval development somewhat. Additionally, studies have shown that Japanese beetle females will avoid laying eggs in overly dry media and instead find moister soils. The implications for this are that female beetles will find well-irrigated areas to oviposit in the landscape. So we can hope that numbers may be reduced after a dry couple of years, but don't depend on that when planning scouting and management.

Japanese beetle feeding skeletonize leaves as on this littleleaf linden.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Management: If you are only managing a few susceptible plants for Japanese beetle, monitoring for the presence of feeding adults is particularly essential. When the beetle begins feeding, the plant sends out a chemical signal which brings in more beetles. If you can catch the first couple of beetles and hand remove them along with any damaged plant tissue, you may be able to prevent large numbers moving in and defoliating your plants. For chemical management, a diamide systemic is the best option, these include chlorotraniliprole (ex. Acelepryn), cyantraniliprole (ex. Mainspring), or cyclaniliprole (ex. Sarisa). Acelepryn has been found to be affective for Japanese beetle adult control 3-4 weeks and is listed as a "reduced risk" pesticide by EPA. Although there are contacts labelled for Japanese beetle, these require frequent reapplication to protect your plants whilst the adults are active, and many will have adverse effects on your pollinators and natural enemies.

Willow Sawfly Activity

By: Laura Nixon

Austin Merrbaugh and Joey Morrow, Antietam Tree and Turf, sent me some photos of willow sawfly (*Nematus ventralis*) this week. They were called to a property in Adamstown, MD that reported their willow tree was suddenly covered with sawflies. The first generation of willow sawfly larvae are currently active and can be found defoliating willows and poplars. There is a second generation that becomes active later in July through to the end of summer when they drop to the ground and spend the winter pupating there. The smaller larvae will chew holes in leaves, whilst the larger larvae consume the whole leaf, leaving only the mid-vein as a sign they were there. Willow sawfly will aggregate to feed, therefore if you have a small population, they may be localized to one branch and easy to prune out. However, heavy populations can be damaging, especially to younger trees. If you catch the larvae whilst they are small, insecticidal soap or horticultural oil can be used, but these require direct contact so ensure full coverage. Spinosad (ex. Conserve) is an effective chemical against sawfly larvae.

Willow sawfly larvae are black with orange/yellow spots along each side.
Photo: Joey Morrow, Antietam Tree and Turf

Willow sawfly can quickly defoliate a tree when populations are high.
Photo: Joey Morrow, Antietam Tree and Turf

Scale Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Gloomy scale (armored scale) – Nancy Harding, UMD, monitored red maples for gloomy scale (*Melanaspis tenebricosa*, Diaspididae) activity on the College Park UMD campus on Monday. She continues to see 1st instar crawlers and newly capped scales at numbers similar to what she found last week. Gloomy scale crawlers emerge multiple weeks so be sure to continue to monitor your maples and treat, or retreat, if necessary.

Sourgum or black gum scale (armored scale) – On Tuesday this week, Marie Rojas (IPM Consultant) observed sourgum scale (*Chionaspis nyssae*, Diaspididae) on *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Wildfire' on both the leaves and trunk. Only adults were observed at this time, not crawlers. This native scale occurs mainly in the Eastern U.S. *Nyssa sylvatica* appears to be the most common host of *C. nyssae*, although the literature states it has been found on trees from 5 other families. Parasitoids are known to attack this scale.

Nyssa sylvatica has become more popular in the nursery and landscape industry in the last several years. Therefore, it is important to monitor and manage this scale and try to prevent it from spreading out into the landscape. I could find little information on the biology of *C. nyssae*. It is reported to feed on the foliage and tree trunks. Based on Marie Rojas's observations in the nursery over the last few years, eggs were found

under female scales in early July, egg hatch / crawler activity began toward the end of July, and egg hatch ended by mid-August. This scale is difficult to see on foliage and tree trunks, so monitor plants closely. **If you have this scale, please let us know when you start to see eggs under females (flip the waxy cover off) and crawler activity (pshrewsbury@umd.edu and sklick@umd.edu)**.

Cryptomeria scale (armored scale) – On Monday June 15th, Heather Zindash (The Soulful Gardener) found Cryptomeria scale (*Aspidiotus cryptomeriae*, Diaspididae) eggs under female covers, active crawlers, and settled firsts on Canaans and Frasers in Freeland, MD. Cryptomeria scale has two generations per year with **1st generation crawlers predicted at 937 DD** (most of MD is at or beyond this 937 DDs at this time).

Gloomy scale crawlers (yellow circles) and capped settled crawlers (grey to black circles with white rims) on red maple.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant

Note the small white sourgum scales, Chionaspis nyssae, on the trunk of this Nyssa tree.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant

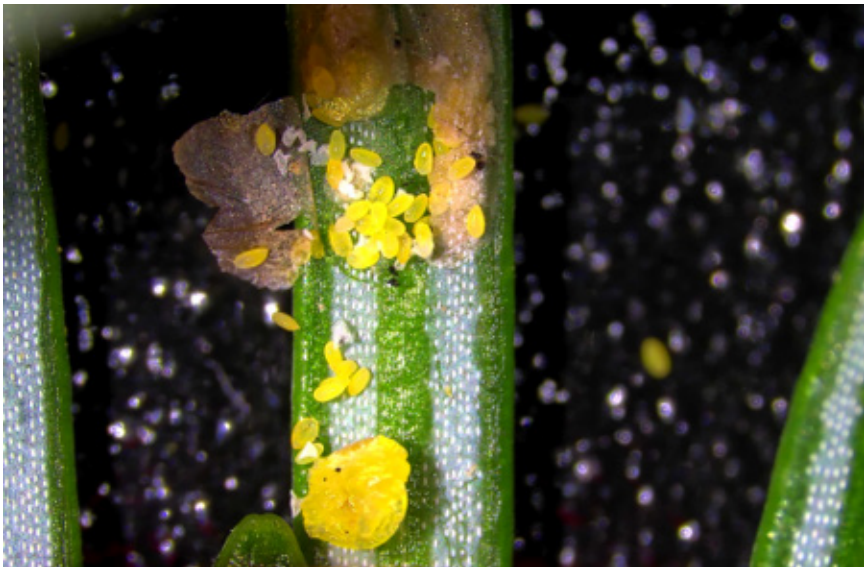
Underside of a *Nyssa* leaf with sourgum scale, *Chionaspis nyssae*. Scales are white: males have a tan teste on one side and are narrow and elongate; females have a tan teste at one end and have a roundish, oystershell shape.
Photo: Vitaly Charny, iNaturalist

Upper side of a *Nyssa* leaf with sourgum scale, Chionaspis nyssae, showing discoloration damage by scales feeding under the leaf. Damage appears as yellowish spots, sometimes surrounded by a bright red discoloration on the upper side of foliage.
Photo: Vitaly Charny, iNaturalist

Second generation crawlers are usually active in August. Cryptomeria scale is known as the "fried egg" scale because when you look at the scales closely, they look like little fried eggs. They are found on the underside of the needles of a wide range of conifers that include true firs (*Abies* spp.). Douglas fir, hemlocks, spruces, and

others. Populations can get high and their feeding causes significant discoloration to the needles. For more information see: https://bygl.osu.edu/node/533

Scale management: When crawlers are active, target crawlers with insect growth regulators (IGR) such as pyriproxyfen (ex. Distance, Fulcrum) or buprofezin (ex. Talus) for control. When the scale is found feeding on the foliage, materials such as dinotefuran or flupyradifurone (ex. Altus, an EPA reduced risk insecticide) should work well.



Cryptomeria scale with adult cover flipped showing the female, eggs, and few active crawlers.
Photo: Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener

Cryptomeria scale image showing the "fried egg" pattern of mature scales and crawlers.
Photo: Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener

Clearwing Moth Borers

By: Laura Nixon

At this time of year, we see several species of clearwing moth (Sesiidae) adults emerging which are damaging to landscape trees. Adult moths lay eggs in and around fissures in tree trunks/branches, and when the larvae hatch, they burrow into the trunks to feed and develop. These species then pupate under the bark and emerge as adults. These borers then pupate within the tree and emerge as adults, leaving round-shaped holes in the trunk, with pupal casings and frass around the exits. The feeding from the larvae can leave a tree weakened, with decline symptoms like flagging branches. If a tree is experiencing other stressors, or the borer population is high, this can lead to tree death. In the April 17, 2026 IPM Report, you can read about the lilac borer, which is our earliest season clearwing.

Rhododendron borer (*Synanthedon rhododendri*): Rhododendron borer targets rhododendrons, azaleas, and mountain laurel. This species has one generation per year and the adults emerge at 815 DD. If you see shoots flagging on your susceptible plants over the next month, you can prune these off and cut them open to inspect for borer larvae. Once larvae are pruned out, it can save an insecticide treatment.

Dogwood borer (*Synanthedon scitula*): Dogwood borer targets a number of host plants, and is most commonly an issue on flowering dogwoods, apples, and some oak species. This species has multiple generations per year, with the first adults emerging at 830 DD, and present until September.

Rhododendron borer adult are ~0.5 inch long. Photo: John .A. Davidson, Univ. Md, College Pk, Bugwood.org

Peach tree borer (*Synanthedon exitiosa*): Peachtree borer targets trees and shrubs in the *Prunus* genus, e.g. peaches, cherries, cherry laurel etc. This species has one generation per year and adults emerge around 1181 DD. Damage from this species occurs around the soil line and lower trunk of Prunus trees. If you are seeing borer damage higher up in the scaffold branches and crotches, it is likely **from lesser peachtree borer (*Synanthedon pictipes*)**, which is a different species with two generations per year. See the May 9, 2025 IPM Report for a detailed article comparing the two species.

Management: There are commercially available pheromone traps with lures available for most pest species of clearwing moth. These will capture only the male moths that are present in your landscape to indicate presence of a population. After detecting adult moths, insecticide treatments can be applied 10 - 14 days later to target hatching eggs and prevent young larvae from boring through the trunk. Once larvae bore into the tree, treatments have low or no efficacy. Chlorantraniliprole (less toxic to natural enemies), bifenthrin, and permethrin are recommended and should be applied as trunk sprays only.

Adult dogwood borer are ≤0.5 inch long. Photo: David Laughlin, Horticultural student, Bugwood.org

Male peach tree borer are 1 – 1.25 inches long. Photo: David Laughlin, Horticultural student, Bugwood.org

If you have an acre or more of susceptible trees, there are species-specific mating disruption products available for dogwood borer, peachtree borer, and lilac borer. Female borers emit sex pheromones for the males to pinpoint them; mating disruption contains this same pheromone and floods the area with it, so the males are unable to find females with which to mate. This is a preventative measure to be deployed before adults emerge.

Sap oozing from damage caused by peach tree borer just above the soil line. Photo: Torri Hancock, USDA-ARS

Bagworms and Powdery Mildew

We are still receiving reports on bagworm and powdery mildew. See previous reports for more information.

Check infestations of bagworms in your area to determine which control option will be most effective based on larvae size.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Environmental conditions are still optimal for powdery mildew infections.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Woolly Apple Aphid, *Eriosoma lanigerum*, on Apple

By: Nancy Harding and Paula Shrewsbury

Joel Patton, MD Master Gardener, found woolly apple aphids on Malus 'Scarlet Sentinel' columnar apple trees this week in Gaithersburg, MD. The woolly apple aphid, *Eriosoma lanigerum*, is native to North America. In areas where American elm occurs, elm is the overwintering host, and rosaceous plants are the summer (alternate) host. In the spring, after eggs hatch and after a few generations occur on elm, winged forms are produced that disperse to rosaceous plants (i.e. apple, crabapple, hawthorn, pyracantha, or mountain ash) where it feeds below ground on the roots and on twigs and trunk or around wounds on the trunk. On summer Rosaceous hosts, woolly apple aphid reproduces asexually (no mating occurs) and gives live birth to nymphs (not eggs). Multiple generations are present on the summer host. Woolly apple aphids can be a damaging pest to apple crops. In early fall, winged aphid forms return to the elm and mating occurs among sexual forms. Mated females each lay one egg (overwintering stage) and dies. In the spring the cycle starts again. In the spring, aphid feed on newly expanding elm leaves causing leaves to twist and curl and be stunted. When you uncurl the leaves, the woolly aphids can be seen. The aphids also produce an abundance of honeydew.

Rosaceious plants like this *Malus* 'Scarlet Sentinel' are the summer hosts of wolly apple aphid.
Photo: Joel Patton, MD Master Gardener

There are several common predators that feed on woolly apple aphids: lacewing larvae, lady beetles, and syrphid fly larvae. In addition, there is a native parasitic wasp (Aphelinus mali) and a predatory plant bug (Miridae), Deraeocoris aphidiphagus, which can be commonly found in the curled elm leaves snacking on the aphids.

If control is warranted, horticultural oil and insecticidal soap can be used which should have a reduced impact on beneficial insects if they are present.

Be On The Lookout for Dogwood Sawfly – Major defoliators of dogwoods

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Dogwood sawfly, *Macremphytus* species, can significantly defoliate dogwood (*Cornus* spp.) trees. **NOW is the time to monitor dogwoods for early instar sawflies**, before they become larger, more challenging to control, and cause significant defoliation. Over the years, I have seen red-twig, aka red osier, dogwoods (*C. sericea*) complete;y dofoliated in late summer. Interestingly, there are three species of dogwood sawfly, *M. testaceus*, *M. semicornis*, and *M. tarsatus*. Fortunately, they all have similar life history characteristics. They have one generation per year, feed on multiple species of dogwood, they are mid-season pests that can severely defoliate their host tree, and late instar larvae will wander off the plant to find soft, often rotting wood to pupate in for the winter. There are several larval instars which vary in the type of damage they cause and their appearance. Newly hatched larvae are a reddish-orange color, and the following instars are covered with a very white waxy material, except the final instar which is yellow with black markings.

In MD, **newly hatched larvae are often seen early to mid-June (932 DD; this week DDs range from 936-1437 DD)** and feed in clusters causing skeletonization damage to dogwood foliage. Late instar larvae can completely defoliate, leaving only the midvein of leaves behind and most often noted in July and August in MD.

Recommendations: Treating dogwood sawfly when they are young is optimal. Dogwood sawfly larvae can be hand-removed from the plant and destroyed, or since they feed gregariously, heavily infested branches can be pruned out. Other options include treating them with chemicals such as spinosad or azadirachtin. For early instar larvae, horticultural oil (ensure full coverage and don't use in extreme heat/ humidity), and insecticidal soap can be effective. Other options include systemic chemicals such as chlorantraniliprole (ex. Acelepryn), cyantraniliprole (ex. Mainspring).

[Click here for a video of dogwood sawfly](#) (by Mike Raupp, UMD)

Image showing waxy instars and the non-waxy last instar larvae of the dogwood sawflies. Photo: Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension

Defoliation by mid-late instar larvae of dogwood sawfly. Photo: Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension

Late instar larva of dogwood sawfly on wood looking for a place to pupate, usually soft rotting wood. Photo: Joe Boggs, Ohio State University Extension

Blackgum Leafslug Sawfly Active on *Nyssa*

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found blackgum leafslug sawfly, *Caliroa nyssaeon*, on *Nyssa sylvatica* this week. Black gum leaf slug sawfly is a specialist and only known to feed on *Nyssa*. The larvae are small (less than ½"), light green and appear to be slimy which gives them a slug-like appearance. There can be multiple generations per year, they overwinter as pupae in the soil beneath the host tree, and adults become active in the spring. Feeding by the larvae results in etching or "window pane" damage on the leaves. Heavy infestations can cause early leaf drop.

Blackgum leafslug sawfly larva and its feeding damage on the underside of a Nyssa leaf.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant

Management: If black gums are mature and healthy they should be able to tolerate moderate defoliation from the sawfly unless attacked over multiple years. Younger, newly transplanted trees may warrant control. Low populations can be removed from the plant by hand and destroyed. However, if you see large numbers of sawfly larvae or an increase in damage, these can be treated with horticultural or neem oil (ensure full coverage and don't use in extreme heat/sun exposure), or systemic chemicals such as chlorantraniliprole (ex. Acelepryn), cyantraniliprole (ex. Mainspring), or the bio-reational spinosad.

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Black widow spiders – Somewhat intimidating but good predators

I was cleaning out my basement stairwell earlier this week and to my surprise I came across a beautiful black widow spider (*Latrodectus* spp.). She had a relatively large abdomen so I expect she will create an egg sac filled with eggs soon. This is the time of year when a lot of us are rummaging around in storage sheds or other outdoor storage areas where items have not been disturbed for a while. You should be aware that this is the type of environment that black widow spiders like – undisturbed, dark, cluttered locations near the ground where the widow makes irregular, loose webbing to hide and catch prey. Black widows are not commonly found indoors; however, they may come inside with items (ex. flowerpots or boxes) that were stored outside and moved in. Outside I have found black widow spiders and their webbing under the rim of black pots, inside rodent boxes placed outside buildings, and under mailboxes (don't tell the postal person!). They are also found in wood and rock piles or animal burrows.

A southern black widow female, *Latrodectus mactans*, showing its characteristic red hourglass pattern on the underside of her abdomen.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

Indoors they are more likely to be found in garages, sheds, basements, and outhouses. Black widow spiders are shy and non-aggressive and usually stay hidden in their webs. But beware: she may bite in self-defense when she is accidentally grabbed or touched! Be aware in habitats where black widow spiders may be and wear work gloves and long sleeves to protect yourself.

Hundreds of black widow spiderlings will hatch from a single egg sac. A single female can lay several egg sacs.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

Of the species of spiders found in Maryland, the black widow is the only native spider that's venom can be dangerous to people (but not deadly). Most spiders have venom, but other native MD spiders either have too little venom to affect people, or the venom is adapted to affect the spider's prey, not people. Black widows belong to the genus *Latrodectus* in the family Theridiidae. There are approximately 31-34 species of black widows worldwide with 5 species in the U.S. Of those, three species are known in MD: *L. mactans*, *L. geometricus*, *L. variolus*. Widow spiders received their name because the females have been observed to eat their male mates. It is now recognized that this cannibalistic behavior happens more with widow spiders in captivity than with those in nature, mainly due to the male's inability to escape the female in captivity.

The black widow spider fanged and paralyzed a moth which she then wrapped with silk.
Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

The female southern black widow, *L. mactans*, is a small (body size not including legs is about 0.3–0.5"), shiny black spider with a red hourglass pattern on the underside of its round abdomen (see image). Other widow species have different patterns of red or orange on their bodies. Males are smaller, only about ¼" body size, and they lack the hourglass pattern, but may have some red or yellow spots on the top or underside of their abdomen. Newly hatched black widow spiderlings of both sexes are yellowish white with markings similar to male adults and are harmless. Southern black widows' mate during spring and summer. The female keeps the egg sac in her web and after about a month the spiderlings emerge from the egg sac. Each egg sac can contain 200 – 800 eggs that hatch into spiderlings. A single female can lay several egg sacs in her lifetime. The spiderlings go through several molts before reaching adulthood. Female black widows live about 1.5 years, and males between 2 – 5 months.

Black widow spiders are notorious for their potentially dangerous **bite**, although they are not aggressive and usually only bite when they feel threatened or are accidentally grabbed. Male and immature black widows do not have fangs large enough to pierce human skin, so bites are almost entirely due to adult female spiders, especially those protecting an egg sac. Female black widows have a potent neurotoxin, alpha-latrotoxin, that can cause adverse reactions in those that are bitten. Fortunately, black widows do not always inject venom when they bite and even if they do, the quantity is rather tiny. Death or serious complications from black widow bites are quite rare. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there have been no confirmed deaths by black widow bites since 1983. Some people are only slightly affected by a bite, while others may suffer from more severe responses. The bite itself is usually painless or feels like a pinprick. However, within the first 30-

60 minutes you may experience severe pain, burning, and swelling and redness where bitten. Other symptoms may include muscle pain or spasms, abdominal cramps, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, sweating, rash and itching, swollen eyes, and / or weakness and tremors. Symptoms are most severe after 3 hours and may persist up to several days. If bitten, try to catch the spider (dead or alive) for identification, and you should immediately seek medical attention, especially if the person is pregnant or a child is bitten.

Like most spiders, black widows are **predators**. They make irregular webs near the ground to trap prey. Widow spiders are known to consume a wide range of insects and arthropods such as ants, moths, caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, flies, cockroaches and scorpions, among others that get caught in their web. Research on black widows has found them to be beneficial predators for controlling some pest populations such as red imported fire ants and harvester ants. So, if you know of black widows and they are not in a location where they are likely to encounter humans, you might want to leave them be and let them eat pest insects and provide some biological control.

Weed of the Week

By: Nathan Glenn

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Few plants have earned a reputation quite like poison ivy. This native perennial is found throughout much of the United States and Canada and is a common sight along woodland edges, fence rows, landscapes, parks, and natural areas. While poison ivy provides food and habitat for wildlife, it is best known for the itchy rash it can cause in humans.

Figure 1: Poison ivy vines growing on a tree.
Photo Credit: Mark Czarnota, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

Identification

Poison ivy is highly adaptable and can grow as either a vine or a shrub depending on its environment.

- **Growth habit**:
  - Climbs trees, fences, and structures as a woody vine
  - Grows as a low shrub in sunny, open areas
- **Leaves**:
  - Arranged in groups of three leaflets
  - Leaflets are typically oval to oblong with pointed tips
  - Margins may be smooth, toothed, or lobed
  - Leaves are often glossy and vary considerably in appearance
- **Stems**:
  - Mature vines are thick and covered with numerous aerial roots, giving them a "hairy" appearance
- **Flowers**:
  - Small, inconspicuous flowers ranging from greenish-white to yellowish in color
  - Appear during late spring and summer
- **Fruit**:
  - White to cream-colored waxy berries that mature in late summer and fall

Fun Fact: While poison ivy causes allergic reactions in many people, numerous bird species readily consume its berries. In fact, the plant is an important food source for wildlife, especially during fall and winter when other food sources become scarce.

Figure 2: Poison ivy leaves growing in its habitat. Photo Credit: Nathan Glenn, University of Maryland Extension

Habitat & Timing

- Common in woodlands, fence rows, landscapes, roadsides, parks, and natural areas
- Thrives in both sun and shade
- Can spread through both seed and underground rhizomes
- Most noticeable during the growing season, but vines remain identifiable year-round due to their hairy appearance

Health Concerns

All parts of poison ivy contain **urushiol**, an oily compound that can cause an allergic skin reaction. Contact may occur from:

- Touching leaves, stems, roots, or vines
- Contact with contaminated clothing, tools, or pet fur
- Handling recently cut plant material

Safety Tip: "Leaves of three, let them be" remains one of the easiest ways to remember to avoid contact with poison ivy.

Figure 3: Poison ivy leaves and flowers. Photo Credit: Maine.gov

Control

Cultural & Mechanical Control

- Wear long sleeves, gloves, and protective clothing when working around poison ivy.
- Wash exposed skin as soon as possible after suspected contact.
- Launder contaminated clothing separately.
- Scout for and remove small plants before they become established.
- For vines growing on trees, cut the stem near the base and allow the upper portion to die before removal.

Chemical Control

Cut-Stump Treatment

- After cutting vines near the base, apply a systemic herbicide to the freshly cut stump:
  - Glyphosate
  - Triclopyr

Foliar Applications

- Glyphosate
- Triclopyr

These products are most effective when applied during periods of active growth, particularly from early to mid-summer.

> **Management Tip:** Because poison ivy spreads through underground rhizomes, a single treatment may not completely eliminate an infestation. Follow-up scouting and retreatment are often necessary.

While poison ivy is a valuable native species from an ecological perspective, its ability to cause painful skin reactions makes identification and proper management important for landscape professionals and property owners alike.

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Phlomis tuberosa 'Amazone' is a member of the Lamiaceae with the common name of sage leaf mullein and is native to Great Britain and Ireland. It is an herbaceous perennial that can grow 3-5 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. They thrive in full sun but can tolerate light shade, and prefer to grow in organically rich, fertile moist but well drained soils. Plants have tuber-like roots and a long columnar, 4-angled, dark red to purple stems. They can bloom from May to July with tiny tubular lavender-pink flowers that fit into a dense, whorled clusters, blooming from the bottom up. Each stem can have up to 8 clusters. In late summer, the flowers give way to ornamental seed heads which give texture through the autumn and the winter. When in bloom, the flowers provide nectar and pollen to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. The sage green leaves are deeply ridged and can appear quilted. The plants are cold tolerant in USDA zones 6-9 and when established drought tolerant.

***Phlomis tuberosa* 'Amazone' has a long bloom period and provides nectar and pollen for beneficial insects**
Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Pest Predictive Calendar "Predictions"

By: Nancy Harding and Paula Shrewsbury

In the Maryland area, the accumulated growing degree days (**DD**) this week range from about **936 DD** (Clarksville) to **1437 DD** (Nat'l Arboretum/Reagan Nat'l). The Pest Predictive Calendar tells us when susceptible stages of pest insects are active based on their DD. Therefore, this week you should be monitoring for the following pests. The estimated start degree days of the targeted life stage are in parentheses.

Winged euonymus scale – egg hatch / crawler **(892 DD)**
European fruit lecanium scale – egg hatch / crawler **(904 DD)**
Gloomy scale – crawler emergence **(912 DD)**
Dogwood sawfly – larva, early instar **(932 DD)**
Cryptomeria scale – egg hatch / crawler **(937 DD)**
Azalea bark scale – egg hatch / crawler **(957 DD)**
Hibiscus sawfly – larva, early instar **(1015 DD)**
Japanese beetle – adult emergence **(1026 DD)**
Fletcher scale – egg hatch / crawler **(1105 DD)**
Spotted lanternfly – first adult activity **(1112 DD)**
Indian wax scale – egg hatch / crawler **(1145 DD)**
Oriental beetle – adult emergence **(1147 DD)**
Peachtree borer (*Synanthedon exitiosa*) – adult emergence **(1181 DD)**
Catalpa sphinx – egg hatch (1st gen) **(1365 DD)**
Green June beetle – adult emergence **(1539 DD)**
Scarlett oak slug sawfly – larva, early instar **(1544 DD)**
Pine needle scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) **(1561 DD)**

See the Pest Predictive Calendar for more information on DD and plant phenological indicators (PPI) to help you better monitor and manage these pests.

Degree Days (as of June 15, 2026)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	1186	Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	1224
Belcamp (FS836)	1132	Clarksville (001MD)	936
College Park (KCGS)	1273	Dulles Airport (KIAD)	1253
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	1317	Frederick (KFDK)	1099
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	1195	Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	1094
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	1149	Millersville (MD026)	1230
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	1437	Perry Hall (C0608)	1112
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	1228	St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	1334
Westminster (KDMW)	1379		

Important Note: We are using the Online Phenology and Degree-Day Models site. Use the following information to calculate GDD for your site: Select your location from the map Model Category: All models Select Degree-day calculatorThresholds in: Fahrenheit °F Lower: 50 Upper: 95 Calculation type: simple average/growing dds Start: Jan 1

Conferences

June 25, 2026 (5:30 - 8:30 p.m.)
MAA Beech Leaf Disease Training

June 26, 2026
Montgomery County Pesticide Procrastinators Conference
Location: Derwood, MD

IPM Scouts' Diagnostic Session (1 - 3 p.m.)
June 23, 2026
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

August 4 and 5, 2026
The Stanton A. Gill Symposium:
Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information
http://extension.umd.edu/ipm

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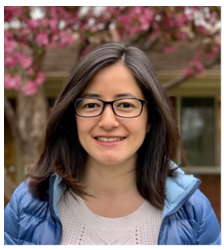

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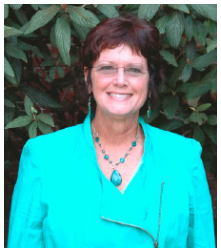

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