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Beneficial of the Week:

Rove beetles

Weed of the Week:

Field bindweed

Plant of the Week:

Eryngium yuccifolium

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)

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Summer Conferences

Stanton A. Gill Symposium: Focus on Biological Control

August 4 and 5, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City

July 22, 2026 IPM Diagnostic Session

Time: 12:30 - 3:00

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City

**The link to register for this program is on our
[Conferences' web page](#)**

Twenty-Spotted Lady Beetle (*Psyllobora vigintimaculata*)

By: Holly Greenberg, UME

This week, Sheena O'Donnell (UME) observed the twenty-spotted lady beetle on a crape myrtle in Rockville, MD. Unlike most lady beetles, which are predatory and commonly consume aphids and other pests, the twenty-spotted lady beetle is a fungivore, relying on powdery mildew for nutrients. This insect is a native species and can be found on any plant that acts as a host for powdery mildew. It lays its eggs near powdery mildew growth areas; the larvae then emerge and develop through four instars as they feed on the fungus. In both the larval and adult stages, this beetle is considered a beneficial insect because of its ability to enact biological control that limits damage caused by powdery mildew. As seen in the photos, the adult twenty-spotted lady beetle has a cream-colored base with dark brown spots and orange coloration on the edges of its wings.



A twenty-spotted lady beetle on a piece of paper.
Photo: Sheena O'Donnell, (UME)



Two twenty-spotted lady beetles mating on the leaf of a crape myrtle in Rockville, MD.
Photo: Sheena O'Donnell, UME

Red Thread/Pink Patch in Turf

Last week, Mark Schlossberg, Pro Lawn Plus, Inc., reported red thread/pink patch infection in turf in Reisterstown, MD. These diseases are similar. Both occur during rainy periods or when there is moisture from morning dew or high humidity. Chemical control is not recommended for these diseases.

Signs of red thread/pink patch are dead patches in turf areas that have a pink to reddish color.
Photo: Mark Schlossberg, ProLawn Plus, Inc.



Crape Myrtles are Getting Sooty – Guess Which Pest...

By Laura Nixon

Whilst inspecting some crape myrtles in Rockville, MD for a study on crapemyrtle bark scale, my eyes were drawn to yellowing leaves with a smattering of black sooty mold. Despite a heavy scale infestation, it seems this particular sooty mold was due to a high population of crapemyrtle aphids (*Sarucallis kahawaluokalani* previously *Tinocallis kahawaluokalani*). During the summer months, all adult aphids are winged females which reproduce asexually and can disperse to new plant material when densities get too high. Crapemyrtle aphids are one of the most common pests on crape myrtles; if you have a crape myrtle, you probably have some population of aphids. If populations are low, natural enemies such as predatory lady beetles can keep them under control. If you are seeing a small amount of damage, such as leaf chlorosis or curling and honey dew/sooty mold build up, you can prune out or water stream isolated populations. If populations increase and damage is more frequent, use horticultural oil or pymetrozine (ex. Endeavor) for minimal impact on the beneficial insects. Be mindful in this hot weather that horticultural oil is not recommended for use over 90°F.



Adult crapemyrtle aphids (center) have transparent, black-patterned wings; nymphs are pale green with larger nymphs exhibiting black spots.
Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



Crape myrtle leaves with aphid damage and black sooty mold.

Photo: Laura Nixon

Spotted Lanternfly Host Preferences Change Through the Season

By: Laura Nixon

We have had a big increase in sightings and reports of red spotted lanternfly nymphs (SLF; *Lycorma delicatula*). These are the fourth instar nymphs, which is the last life stage before they develop into winged adults. Early instar SLF (small, black with white polkadots) are seen on a broad range of host plants and not associated with any direct plant damage; as this insect develops that host range narrows and associated damage on **select** plants increases. All life stages favor the invasive tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), but secondary preferences differ across SLF development. Fourth instar nymphs have a particularly interesting narrowing of hosts; they tend to favor black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and stay away from grapevines. This is the first life stage where heavy feeding can cause direct plant damage, and I have only witnessed or had reports of that direct damage on black walnuts. You may see these red nymphs aggregating and feeding heavily on the same branch, causing that branch to flag and, sometimes, break off. It is important to note that healthy trees will recover from this damage. An interesting note from this year is that I have had numerous reports of high numbers of red nymphs on crape myrtles over the past week. Crape myrtles have not been tested in any of the published research on SLF host preferences, so we don't know exactly how they are utilizing this plant, but this is definitely something to keep an eye out for.



Black walnut branch that is beginning to wilt with heavy fourth instar spotted lanternfly nymphs feeding.

Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



High numbers of fourth instar spotted lanternfly nymphs on crape myrtle.

Photo: Eder Gonzales, Evergardens

Still Seeing Small Bagworms?

By Laura Nixon

Over the past couple of weeks, we have had a few reports of early instar bagworms from Western Maryland and Pennsylvania. This is unusual as bagworm hatch occurs at 635 DD, which was surpassed in Maryland in late May. There were reports of small bagworms in early June, which will have developed into larger bagworm by now. Spring 2026 has brought some particularly unusual weather with extreme temperature fluctuations; we have been seeing the effects of that in our insect populations and slightly “out-of-whack” phenologies. If you are seeing high populations of bagworm, the smaller caterpillars are much more susceptible to treatments. See the [May 22, 2026 IPM Report](#) for monitoring and treatment recommendations.



Constructed bags contain small caterpillars.
Photo: David Lantz



Bagworm damage in Hagerstown, MD.
Photo: David Lantz

A New Fact Sheet On Drones

The new Fact Sheet, '[FAA Part 107 Certification and Drone Registration](#)' is now available to guide you in obtaining your FAA Part 107 certificate. This certificate "provides rules for remote pilots who operate drones for purposes other than for recreation, such as photography, inspections, or agricultural work."

Southern Blight

By: David L. Clement

With the recent hot humid weather, we've noticed an increased incidence of southern blight. Southern blight, also called southern wilt, southern stem rot, southern root rot and other names, results from infection by the soilborne fungus *Agroathelia rolfsii* (anamorph: *Sclerotium rolfsii*). Southern blight has a wide host range, affecting over 500 plant species including many herbaceous ornamentals and even woody nursery stock. The fungus can be spread through movement of infested soil, plant debris, infected plants, contaminated irrigation water, and contaminated tools.



Southern blight infections are occurring on landscape plants this week.
Photo: David Clement, UME

The pathogen commonly infects the stem or crown of most hosts, but it is also capable of damaging roots near the soil line, resulting in wilting, stunting, and plant death. After wilting, lesions begin to form at the base of the stem or close to the soil surface and move up the shoot of the stem. The pathogen continues to grow on dead plant material, and white mycelial mats can be observed on the soil surface surrounding the base of the stem. From these mycelia, white sclerotia are formed that will turn tan as they mature. The sclerotia resemble tiny seeds and are usually attached to plant parts.

The fungus survives in the soil as sclerotia and the presence of sclerotia is the main diagnostic feature of this disease. These sclerotia serve as overwintering bodies for the pathogen and can persist in the field or seedbed for several years in the absence of a viable host.

Management

Sanitation is the first course of action. Remove all infected plants, including surface soil and roots. Dispose infected plants and soil off site. Perform deep tillage to bury any remaining sclerotia. Remove excessive mulch away from plant stems and leave bare soil at the plant crown. Prevention with fungicides is more effective than trying to cure already infected plants. Fungicide options include Strobilurins: pyraclostrobin, azoxystrobin, and fluoxastrobin, SDHI fungicides containing: fluxapyroxad + pyraclostrobin and penthiopyrad, Triazoles: tebuconazole and prothioconazole. Biological control agents, such as *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma viride*, and certain mycorrhizal fungi have also been shown to provide some disease control.

Be Careful During This Heat Wave

Be sure to drink plenty of water and get into air conditioning as needed during this extended heat wave. Watch out for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke as you work outside in this weather. For more information, check out the UME publication, [Understanding Maryland's New Heat Stress Standards](#)'.

Cool Caterpillar Find!

By: Laura Nixon

Whilst scouting fringe tree in Frederick County this week, Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found some interesting, furled leaves on one tree. When unfurled, each revealed a caterpillar within. Based on the light green coloring, tiny black spots on the first abdominal segments, and host tree, we believe these are inkblot palpita moth caterpillars (*Palpita illibalis*). After hatching, the caterpillars form shelters of curled fringe tree leaves using webbing and feeding from inside. Single caterpillar will stay within the same shelter for its entire development unless the shelter deteriorates. This is a very understudied species, so there is not a lot of solid information about developmental times or generations in our region. Further south, this species has two generations per year.

As this is a native species and not commonly seen, it is not considered a pest. It's interesting that Marie found multiple caterpillars on just the one tree that was growing among other several others! The feeding damage of this species is not widespread and doesn't affect tree health.



Unusual folding at the tips of fringe tree leaves.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Within the folded shelter is a developing caterpillar with frass which appears to be an inkblot palpita moth caterpillar. If it is this species, the caterpillar will get bigger with larger, more distinct black spots along its back.
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Potato Leafhopper Numbers are Increasing

By Laura Nixon

I have written about potato leafhopper (*Empoasca fabae*) a couple of times this season ([May 1st IPM Report](#) and [May 29th IPM Report](#)), but we are hitting the time of year where pest numbers and plant damage are increasing. We had a report of hopperburn on container pin oaks last week. Heavy feeding leads to curling and discoloration of leaves that can be mistaken for herbicide damage or leaf scorch. The telltale sign that it is hopperburn rather than these other symptoms is the tiny green leafhoppers which will jump and fly when you disturb the plant.



**This tiny green insect is potato leafhopper.
Photo: Denton Weber, Taproot Nursery.**

This pest is the key driver for insecticide spray programs in many nurseries; since this species is both migratory and has multiple generations throughout the summer, reinfestation is common. For this reason, using a targeted systemic such as cyantraniliprole (ex. Mainspring) is ideal for long residual action; dinotefuran and imidacloprid are also commonly used for potato leafhopper, but be mindful that these are both neonicotinoids (a class of insecticides that we are aiming to reduce use of) and shouldn't be used before or during bloom times. Repeat applications of biorationals, such as *Beauveria bassiana* products (Botanigard), are also effective. It is not recommended to use other short residual/contact insecticides, since frequent applications of these will affect your beneficial insect populations and cause secondary pest outbreaks (e.g. mites, aphids, etc.).



**Curling yellow leaves on pin oak from heavy potato leafhopper feeding.
Photo: Denton Weber, Taproot Nursery**

Beech Leaf Disease and Look A-likes

By: Sheena O'Donnell and David Clement

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is a new disease to Maryland as of 2023 which is caused by foliar nematodes (*Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*) that feed between lateral leaf veins. They overwinter in buds, becoming active and beginning to feed and disperse as soon as new leaves emerge in spring. At this time you can see the earliest symptom: dark green banding between veins that is visible when looking up through the bottom of the canopy. As the leaf ages, increased feeding leads to thickened and distorted growth in those sections. Over time, affected areas become leathery and can cause the leaf to curl or cup, and eventually these areas become chlorotic and necrotic. In high infestations leaves will drop early and overall bud and branch dieback can occur. Though they feed on foliage and are active during the growing season, they can withstand very cold and dry conditions. The dispersal mechanisms of the nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae*, are not yet fully understood.

There are a good number of other conditions that can cause symptoms that can look just like those of BLD, though. With the season in full swing, current beech ailments could be due to a number of things. BLD is quite serious and can cause tree death in several years, but there are many look-alikes that are actually harmless or can be addressed easily:

Beech Erineum Mites are a type of eriophyid mite that causes galls in similar areas of the leaf, but these begin as rosy/rusty looking spots instead of complete dark streaks in the leaf that fill out the area between veins. If heavy enough or looking up from underneath the canopy of the two can look similar. These mites are not likely to cause lasting damage or overall decline in otherwise healthy trees.

Woolly Beech & other Aphids - Woolly beech aphids are a fan of European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and do not go for American beech (*F. grandifolia*). They can cause bands in the leaves similar to BLD but within these bands will be more of a stippling pattern that is lighter than the unaffected part of the leaf, rather than a complete darkening of the area. Look for evidence of these aphids by searching the undersides of leaves for their white waxy shed skins. The aphids themselves also have a white waxy/fluffy-looking coating. Other leaf curling aphids can also cause banding along with curling and cupping of leaves. Again, these aphids leave more of a stippling lighter effect than the darkening of the BLD bands and will also leave behind non-waxy/fluffy shed skins. They are unlikely to cause lasting damage or overall decline in otherwise healthy trees.



Damage on beech from erineum mites (May 2022).
Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Anthracnose is a fungus that causes necrotic patches on the leaves, but these are more complete patches that also affect lateral veins within the patch, rather than the streaks noticed between lateral veins with BLD. The rest of the leaf also does not have the darkened banding. This is also unlikely to cause lasting damage or overall decline in otherwise healthy trees.

Normal Coloration - Some cultivars have fun colors and variegation, but this can make it hard to detect or accurately interpret symptoms. These cultivars may require more scrutiny when scouting due to the possibility of a false positive or negative or the possibility of misdiagnosis just because of the existing pattern on the leaf.

Nutrition - Iron deficiency chlorosis can cause what looks like banding in beech leaves because of their leaf anatomy, but instead of the bands being darker and sporadic in their distribution within the leaf, it will be an overall yellowing of the leaf with the veins remaining green. This is also unlikely to show up early in the spring, like how BLD symptoms do. Refer to soils tests to determine whether the plant is getting enough nutrients. Magnesium deficiency can also look similar with some cupping of the edges, but again it will affect the whole leaf rather than just some of the interveinal spaces. This is unlikely in our soils but can be detected with a soils test as well.



Woolly beech aphids and damage.

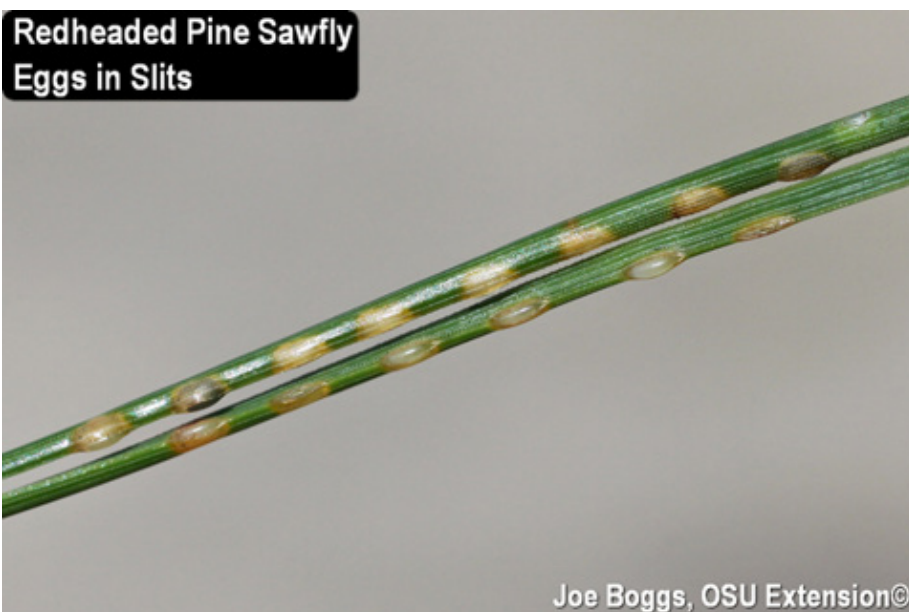
Photo: Petr Kapitola, Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture, Bugwood.org

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 nematocide 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.

Red-headed Pine Sawfly are Active and Very Voracious

By: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

Aggregations of red-headed pine sawfly, *Neodiprion lecontei* (Hymenoptera: Diprionidae) were found by Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, attacking both *Pinus taeda* and *P. virginiana* in Gaithersburg, MD on July 1st. This native sawfly feeds on pines including jack, red, shortleaf, loblolly, Japanese black, and mugo. Other hosts include deodar cedar and Norway spruce. Trees growing under stressful conditions are most often attacked. There are two generations a year in Maryland. First generation larvae are usually active June to early July; and second-generation August through October. Females insert eggs into needle resulting in rows of tan spots on the needles. The larvae feed gregariously and strip the needles from the terminal twigs and branches. You may see multiple larvae on a needle feeding



Red-headed pine sawfly adult females use their ovipositors to “saw” a slit in the needle of its host tree and inserts an egg, resulting in rows of tan spots on the needle.

Photo: Joe Boggs, OSU Extension

together (facilitative feeding) from the tip down to the branch (see image). An aggregation of larvae can defoliate whole sections of a pine very rapidly. Once larvae have stripped the needles, they feed on bark tissue with heavy damage killing the affected branches. Small, infested trees can be killed.

Monitor: Visually monitor now for first generation larvae (should be late instar now) and defoliation of needles from host trees. Be sure to monitor again later in the season for second generation eggs and larvae.

Control: There are numerous natural enemies that feed on sawflies, especially many larger wasps and yellow jackets who use the sawfly as food for their young. For isolated trees and where feasible, prune off branches with aggregations of sawflies and destroy them or knock them off the plant into a container of water with dish soap in it. If numerous trees are infested, products in which spinosad is the active ingredient (ex. Conserve) should give good control. Horticultural oil works well against young sawfly larvae but should only be used when weather conditions are appropriate (read the label).



Red-headed pine sawfly larvae feed together (facilitative feeding) starting at the tip of needle and working their way down.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Red-headed pine sawfly larvae feed in large aggregations on terminal branches and when defoliated, they move to a new branch and so forth.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout

Redheaded Pine Sawfly Damage



Joe Boggs, OSU Extension©

Damaged terminals of a pine that were defoliated by red-headed pine sawfly.

Photo: Joe Boggs, OSU Extension

Box Tree Moth Update

Box tree moths (*Cydalima perspectalis*) continue to feed and grow in Hancock and Clear Spring, MD this week. Last week, we saw newly hatching larvae and now they have fed and developed through at least two larval stages. Now that they are a little bigger and easier to see, it is a good time to scout your boxwood plants. Treatments are more effective when applied to these smaller caterpillars; see last week's IPM alert for treatment information.



Now is the time to look for box tree moth caterpillars on plants.

Photo: Holly Greenberg, UME

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Rove beetles: Predators of ground dwelling insects

Many pest insects are active in or at the ground their entire life or some stage of their life (ex. eggs, pupae). Ground-dwelling predators play a major role in suppressing plant feeding insects that hang out on the ground. Rove beetles (family Staphylinidae) are a common predator group in turf, landscape beds, nursery, agricultural and natural environments. Staphylinidae is the largest family of beetles with over 66,000 species worldwide. They are also a very ancient group of beetles with fossils dating back about 200 million years ago in the middle Jurassic period. So not surprisingly, rove beetles are very diverse in their ecology and morphology. In addition to being predators, some rove beetle species feed on fungi, carrion, dung, detritus, or pollen. They have figured out how to survive for a long time!



A rove beetle adult, *Platydacus fossator*, found in MD foraging for prey. Note the short elytra (front wings) that expose the abdomen.

Photo: Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org

Rove beetles are easily distinguished from other families of beetles by their short elytra (front wings). Because their wings are short, typically more than half of their abdominal segments are exposed – a diagnostic characteristic. Although they have short front wings, their

membranous hind wings are well developed and rove beetles can fly. Their [hind wings are intricately folded under the small front wings](#). Species range in size from very tiny (1/16") to quite large (1.5"), are elongate in shape, and their colors range from yellow to red to brown to black. When rove beetles perceive a threat they will lift the tip of the abdomens upward. There is a pair of short appendages on the tip of their abdomen resulting in some people mistaking them for earwigs. Rove beetle larvae also have elongated bodies that appear somewhat flattened from a side view. The larvae have a dark head, and the body is off-white or tan in color and also has projections at the tip of their abdomen. Eggs are laid in moist habitats and where food is present such as in the soil under decaying leaf litter. Rove beetles are nocturnal, being most active at night.



Rove beetle adult. Note the characteristic short dark-colored elytra that expose more than half of the beetle's abdomen.

Photo: T. Murray, from bugguide.net

Rove beetles are found in many types of habitats but most species are commonly found foraging at the ground level on the soil surface, under leave litter and stones, and in mulch. They can also be found under flaking bark of fallen decaying trees, in carrion (dead stuff), and in other moist environments. Some species climb up on plants at night in search of prey. The majority of rove beetle species are predators of insects and mites as adults and larvae. They feed on mites, soil inhabiting nematodes, aphids, beetles, collembola, and fly larvae. However, there are a few that are somewhat specialized or unique in their biology. One genera of rove beetle, *Stenus*, are specialist predators of collembolan (common on plants and in soil feeding on decaying matter and fungus). *Stenus* have a specialized mouthpart, the labium (somewhat analogous to our lower lip), that the beetle can quickly shoot outward from its head using blood pressure. The labium has a pad covered with bristly hairs with hooks and glands that excrete a glue-like substance that results in prey becoming "stuck" to the rove beetles mouthpart. Yikes!



Rove beetle larva on moist tree bark.

Photo: Randy Geiger; from BugGuide.net #264367

Interestingly, a few species of rove beetles are parasitoids of insects such as fly pupae. Some species use chemicals. For example, one species, *Aleochara curtula*, applies an anti-aphrodisiac pheromone to the female he just mated to deter other males from mating with her (his sperm win!). *Paederus* species emit a toxic chemical (pederin) when threatened which is known to cause blisters to people who handle them – so beware.

Rove beetles are diverse and contribute to ecosystem function in many ways, including biological control of plant feeding insects and mites that attack ornamental plants and turf. Rove beetles are reported to suppress populations of pest insects and mites in numerous agricultural, forest, and horticultural systems. There is also a commercially available species of rove beetle, *Dalotia coriaria*, which targets pests such as fungus gnat and shore fly larvae, and thrips.

For more detailed information go to: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/beetles/rove_beetles.htm

Weed of the Week

By: Kelly Nichols

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is a perennial plant which reproduces from seed or rhizomes. A native of Europe, it is now found worldwide. The plant has bell shaped leaves (Figure 1) and produces a white flower (Figure 2). On rare occasions, it may have a pink flower. This weed can produce stems that can grow several feet in length growing horizontally or climbing into and covering shrubs and trees. A new plant can produce roots that can grow downward to five feet in the first year and have a circumference of ten feet. Over time this plant, soil type-dependent, can sink roots to greater than fifteen feet (some reports of up to thirty feet) where it is stealing both moisture and nutrients from desired species of plant material.



Figure 1. Field bindweed leaves.

Photo Credit: Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org.



Figure 2. Field bindweed's white flowers.

Photo: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org.



Figure 3. Leaves of various morningglory species; From Left to Right: red (*Ipomoea coccinea*), pitted (*Ipomoea lacunosa*), entireleaf (*Ipomoea hederacea* var. *integrifolia*), and ivy leaf (*Ipomoea hederacea*).

Photo: Theodore Webster, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org.

Field bindweed can be confused with morningglory species (*Ipomoea* sp.). However, our common morningglories are annual plants, have heart-shaped or deeply lobed leaves (Figure 3), do not produce rhizomes, and are much easier to control. The root system on morningglory is not as deep or problematic as with bindweed. Morningglory is actually planted by some as an annual flower.

Mechanical control of field bindweed is difficult due to the rhizomes and low growth habit. In some studies it has been shown that regular cultivation, up to 25 times in a growing season, can be helpful in stopping field bindweed from developing. Less rigorous cultivation can actually help spread the plant as breaking the roots

acts as one method of spread. Freezing and thawing of the soil helps to break seed dormancy. Seeds can remain viable for up to 30 years. Burying the seed to a depth of greater than 12 inches prevents germination, but if they are brought up to the surface later, they can still germinate. Herbicides for suppression include glyphosate, and 2,4-D products depending on location. More than one application will be needed for adequate control. Timing of applications should be mid to late summer and early fall, with close monitoring of the site for return growth. Care needs to be used with the use of these products to prevent damage to the desired species of plants in the landscape near this weed.

Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

Eryngium yuccifolium is also known as rattlesnake master and button snakeroot. It is a native herbaceous perennial that can grow 4-5 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. These unusual looking plants prefer to grow in dryish sandy soils and will self-seed in optimum growing conditions. They thrive in full sun and grow in moist but well drained soils, and with their taproot, prefer not to be moved once planted. The specific epithet *yuccifolium* is aptly named as the foliage looks very similar to yucca plant with its basal rosette of sword-shaped, spiny edged, 3-foot-long, green leaves. The leaves have parallel veins even though they are a dicot. The stiff upright stems hold the greenish-white, fragrant, tiny stemless flowers that are densely packed into a 1-inch round head. Flowers heads are grouped into branched clumps of 8-10 on the top of smooth stiff stems. Each flower has 5 white petals, 5 white stamens, brown anthers, and a pistil with 2 white styles. When in bloom they produce a sweet honey-like fragrance which attracts many pollinators from June to August. They turn from greenish white to blue at maturity. The brown to copper colored $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long fruit holds 2 seeds. When in bloom the plants attract bees, wasps, flies, and many butterflies like monarchs and skippers. Soldier beetles will eat pollen and the rattle snake master stemborer moth uses the plant as a larval host. Plants are deer, rabbit, and drought tolerant, and there are no serious insect or disease problems.



Eryngium yuccifolium is host to many insect predators.
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 **1245 DD** (Clarksville) to **1854 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.

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**)

White prunicola scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) (**1637 DD**)

Obscure scale – egg hatch / crawler (**1774 DD**)

Orangestriped oakworm – egg hatch / early instar (**1917 DD**)

Magnolia scale – crawler (**1938 DD**)

Fall webworm – egg hatch / early instar (2nd gen) (**1962 DD**)

Maskell scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) (**2035 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 30, 2026)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	1571
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	1599
Belcamp (FS836)	1498
Clarksville (001MD)	1245
College Park (KCGS)	1655
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	1621
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	1691
Frederick (KFDK)	1432
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	1542
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	1411
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	1484
Millersville (MD026)	1594
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	1854
Perry Hall (C0608)	1464
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	1595
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	1728
Westminster (KDMW)	1769

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 calculator Thresholds in: Fahrenheit °F Lower: 50 Upper: 95 Calculation type: simple average/growing dds Start: Jan 1

Conferences

[IPM Diagnostic Session](#) (1 - 3 p.m.)

July 22, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

[The Stanton A. Gill Symposium: A focus on biological control](#)

August 4 and 5, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

FALCAN Truck & Trailer Safety Seminar

October 14, 2026

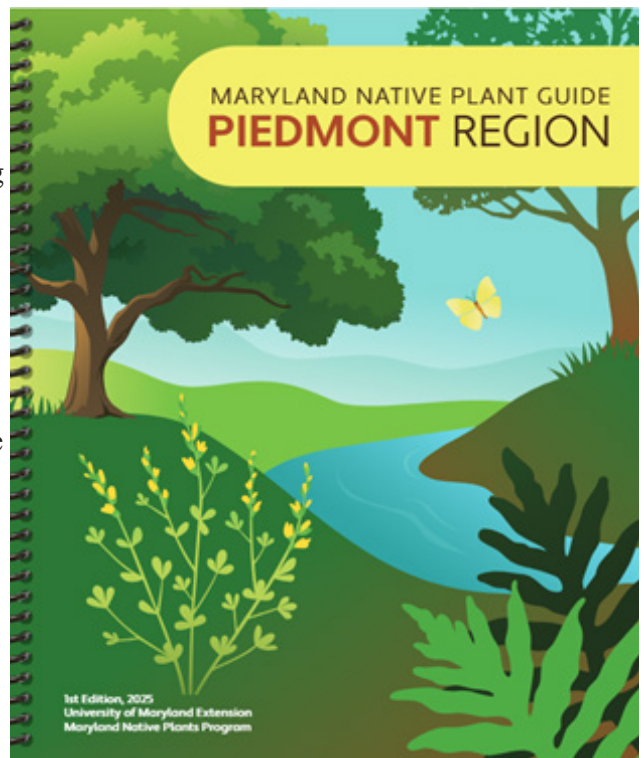
Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD

Registration opens in July.

Last year's FALCAN Truck & Trailer Safety Seminar sold out well before the event, and we expect another strong turnout this year. Whether you manage a fleet, operate trucks and trailers, or are responsible for compliance and safety, this seminar provides valuable information on the laws, regulations, and best practices that can help protect your business and avoid costly violations. We encourage you to share this information with supervisors, coworkers, and others within your organization who would benefit from attending. Seating is limited, and early registration is recommended.

Check Out the UME Publication – Maryland Native Plant Guide

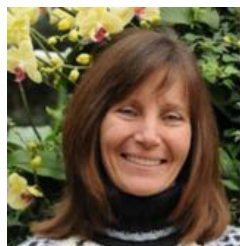
Lisa Kuder, University of Maryland Extension (UME) Native Plants & Landscapes Specialist, with several other members of the Maryland Native Plants Extension program, recently published the [Maryland Native Plant Guide](#) which is available on-line or to purchase as a hard copy. This guide is an amazing 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.



Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

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

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