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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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Disease Information: David Clement (Extension Specialist) and Ana Cristina Fulladolsa (Plant Pathologist and Director, UMD Diagnostic Lab)

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Keep an Eye Out for Crawlers: Tuliptree Scale, White Prunicola Scale, Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

By: Laura Nixon

Tuliptree Scale

Crawler activity for tuliptree scale (*Toumeyella liriodendri*) is predicted to begin at 3472 DD. These crawlers will mature into second instar nymphs and settle onto 1-2 year old branches. The overwintering stage is dormant and therefore not feeding, however, the darker coloring makes them harder to see and treat. The upcoming crawler stage is the best time to treat to manage next spring's populations.



Look for crawlers of tuliptree scale at this time of year.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

White Prunicola Scale

Crawler activity for white prunicola scale (*Pseudaulacaspis prunicola*) is predicted to begin at 3238 DD. These crawlers will mature through to adults

this fall, and will overwinter as mated females. These scale are armored and dormant throughout the winter, so once again, controlling this final crawler stage is your best chance to reduce next year's population.

Crape myrtle Bark Scale

The populations of crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) on some of our study trees has exploded since the last generation. All of the ovisacs we're seeing will hatch within the next couple of weeks and develop into settled immature scale for overwintering. The immature scale tend to settle into crevices and under loose bark for protection, they are also darker and harder to see than the bright pink crawlers or white adults.

Control Options

First and foremost, if you're seeing high numbers of predators such as lady beetles and lacewings, be mindful to select management options that won't impact those populations; these predators can significantly improve your scale problems. If scale populations are isolated, consider pruning out or spot treating those branches. Physically scrubbing scale off a loaded branch will help with numbers, whether or not you decide on other treatments. If chemical control is required, there are several options. It is generally cool enough now to bring out the horticultural oil for contact treatments; insect growth regulators such as pyriproxyfen (ex. Distance or Fulcrum) or buprofezin (ex. Talus) are also effective. Be careful if you decide on a systemic (such as dinotefuran), as crape myrtles are late summer blooms and many are still in flower, don't treat with dinotefuran if your trees are blooming.



Monitor for white prunicola scale crawlers to apply control materials at the most effective time.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Crape myrtle heavily infested with CMBS.

Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



***Hyperaspis* lady beetle larva (arrow) tucking into a meal of crape myrtle bark scale (circle).**

Photo: Laura Nixon, UME

Box Tree Moth Adults are in Flight

By: Laura Nixon

Whilst visiting infested box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) sites in Washington County, MD this week, we only observed late-stage caterpillars and empty pupal casings. A photo was also sent to us from Front Royal, VA of adult moths gathering below a porch light which had been left on overnight. This confirms that our region has a third generation of box tree moth. In the next two weeks, keep your eyes peeled for the newly hatching caterpillars.

Two weeks ago, the Maryland quarantine for box tree moth expanded to include Queen Anne's, Cecil, Kent, and Caroline Counties. See the [August 28, 2026 IPM report](#) for more information on the quarantine and compliance agreements.



Box tree moth adult.
Photo contributed by Laura Nixon.



Box tree moth adults resting on the side of a house.
Photo contributed by Laura Nixon.

Bird's Nest Fungi

By: Suzanne Klick

With this week's storms, we have seen bird's nest fungi popping up in the mulch in our landscape plantings here at the research center. Millions of fungal spores are in the 'eggs' (called peridioles) in the nest-like structure of these fungi. Raindrops splash the peridioles out of the nest onto other areas of mulch or building structures nearby. Bird's nest fungi obtain nutrients from decomposing wood and are often found in mulched landscape areas. They are not a problem for plants and are also cool to observe.



Various stages of bird's nest fungi in mulch.
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Lace Bugs on Swamp White Oak

By: Laura Nixon

This week, I found lace bug populations on some large swamp white oaks. Heavy lace bug feeding causes stippling damage on the leaves and dark fecal spots on the underside where the bugs hang out. Although lace bug populations look high on the few leaves I collected, they were not all over the tree, and damage caused by lace bugs is not enough to harm mature trees. If lace bug densities and damage are high on younger trees and controls are needed, use properly labeled systemic chemicals such as flupyradifurone (Altus, an EPA reduced risk product), chlorantraniliprole (Acelypryn), acetamiprid (Tristar), or acephate. Contact products such as horticultural oil should be directed so that the underside of foliage where lace bugs feed is thoroughly covered.



Lace bug nymphs and dark fecal spots on the underside of oak leaves.

Photo: Laura Nixon, UME



Lace bug adult.

Photo: Laura Nixon, UME

Fairy Ring

Kevin Nickle sent in a photo of fairy rings in a neighbor's turf area this week. Fairy rings in turf are caused by numerous fungal species that live in the soil and decompose organic matter. Frequently, as these fungi release nutrients from organic matter, they create circular patterns, or mushrooms on the surface.

See Dave Clement's article in the [July 24, 2026 IPM report](#) for more information.



A large fairy ring has shown up in this turf area.

Photo: Kevin Nickle

Caterpillar Activity



A luna moth caterpillar (*Actias luna*) is feasting on a *Liquidambar styraciflua* leaf on a tree at Scott Jenkins Park in Round Hill, VA.

Photo: Lucas Kilgore, Loudon County Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Community Services



Yellow-striped armyworms are often found feeding on flowers at this time of year.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

Caterpillar Predators

There are predators like thread-waisted wasps (*Ammophila* spp.) that grab caterpillars to place in their nests for developing larvae. These wasps have been grabbing caterpillars this week at the research center among some vegetable and flower plots. It's amazing to watch how they grab the caterpillar with their mandibles and strattle their prey as they move very quickly along the ground to their nests.

This female thread-waisted wasp moved quickly along the ground with her caterpillar prey.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



Defoliated Cherry Trees and Fall Powdery Mildews

By: David L. Clement

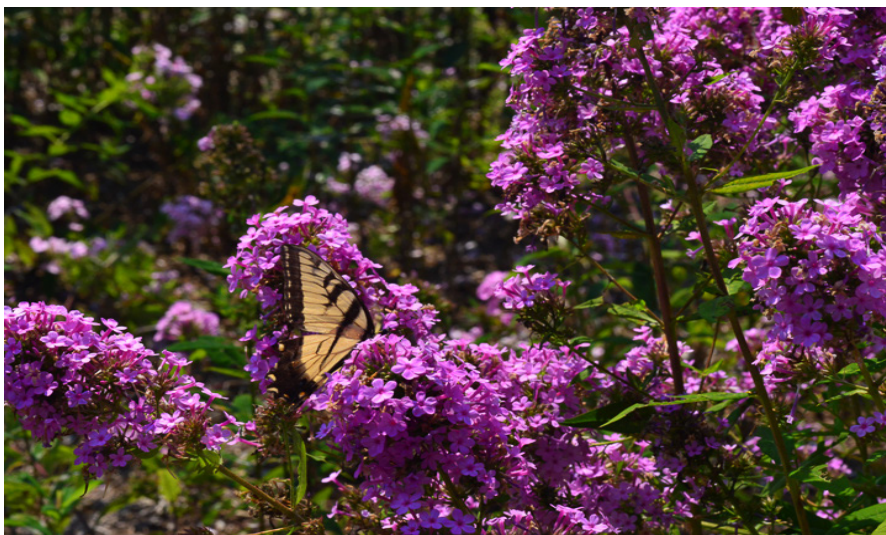
While driving around Maryland last week, I've seen many examples of defoliating ornamental cherries. The primary cause for the defoliation is from cherry shot-hole disease. This is a "catch-all" phrase referring to the symptom of tiny 3mm round holes in many cherry cultivars and cherry laurel shrubs. The two pathogens that commonly produce these symptoms are a bacterial leaf spot caused by the bacterium *Xanthomonas pruni* and cherry leaf spot caused by the fungus *Blumeriella jaapii*. Both diseases start in the spring and continue to cause new infections through the season into fall. Rain events carry the pathogens onto the leaf petioles which girdles the leaf and results in early leaf droppage. There is not much you can do at this time of year, but you can explain to your customers it is tied to the weather. Begin disease prevention next year with early sprays, aimed at the specific pathogen, timed at leaf emergence and continuing through early June.

Cooler nights and sunny days are the perfect combination for powdery mildew infections going into the fall. Overnight dew on foliage creates perfect conditions for powdery mildew on susceptible plants especially if your customers have powdery mildew susceptible dogwoods, euonymus, monarda, and phlox.

The best method of powdery mildew management is prevention that includes avoiding the most susceptible cultivars. Some ornamentals do require protection with fungicide sprays if mildew conditions are more favorable, especially susceptible varieties of rose and crape myrtle. Resistant crape myrtles with Native American names such as 'Hopi', Catawba', and 'Cherokee', were developed by breeders at the National Arboretum.

Disease resistant monardas from Mt Cuba trials include: *Monarda fistulosa* 'Claire Grace', *M.* 'Dark Ponticum', *M.* 'Violet Queen', *M.* 'AChall' (Grand Marshall), *M.* 'Judith's Fancy Fuchsia', *M.* 'Colrain Red', *M.* 'Raspberry Wine', *M.* 'Purple Rooster', *M.* 'On Parade', and *M.* Gardenview Scarlet'.

The best *Phlox paniculata* cultivar in Mt Cuba's trials was 'Jeana' and additional cultivars included 'Glamour Girl', 'Lavelle', 'Robert Poore', 'Dick Weaver', 'David', 'Ditombre' (Coral Crème Drop), 'Shortwood', and the hybrid *P. × arendsii* 'Babyface'. Changing cultural practices such as providing full sun, using a soaker hose, or drip lines for irrigation, increasing air circulation by increased plant spacing and thinning stems, and thorough fall cleanup of fallen leaves to prevent fungal spores from overwintering in your soil.



Phlox paniculata 'Jeana' is a powdery mildew resistant cultivar.
Photo: David Clement, UME

Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Why are those wasps flying over the turf?

A few weeks ago, Marie Rojas, IPM Consultant, sent me a video of hundreds of wasps flying over her lawn. Marie and I were both excited because these were **blue-winged wasps, *Scolia dubia***, in the family Scoliidae. Why were we so excited about all these blue-winged wasps? Because they help to suppress populations of scarab beetle white grubs and they pollinate flowers such as spotted horsemint ([see video by M. Raupp, UMD](#)) and others. There are about 20 species of scoliid wasps in North America. *Scolia dubia* is the common species active in August – early September in MD and the region. They are ~ ¾" in length, have blue-black wings (hence the name) and black bodies except at the end of the abdomen, which is reddish brown and hairy with two distinct yellow patches. *Scolia dubia* mainly attack scarab grubs of **green June beetle** and **Japanese beetle**. These scarab beetles lay eggs in the soil of turf, garden beds, nursery stock, and grassy fields. Scarab eggs hatch and white grubs are active in the root zone into October. Scoliid wasp adults are most abundant and noticeable during August and sometimes into early September. Scoliid wasps fly several inches above turf infested with white grubs, often flying in a figure eight pattern. This figure eight flight is a courtship dance used to communicate with and attract mates. Male wasps fly over turf waiting for females to emerge from turf to mate with. When flying over the turf, amazingly females are able to locate a grub in the soil, possibly using chemical, movement, or sound cues. She then "digs" her way into the soil down to the white grub. Once the grub is located, she stings it with her ovipositor and injects a toxin that paralyzes the grub. This allows the female scoliid wasp to lay one of her eggs on the underside of the paralyzed grub. The female wasp will then construct a "cell" of hardened soil around the grub, the wasp egg hatches, and the "mostly dead" grub provides "fresh" food for the wasp larvae. Once mature, the wasp larva pupates and passes the winter in the soil within the cell. The wasp will emerge as an adult the next August. Sounds like a pretty slow and nasty death for the grub – but part of the circle of life.

The presence of blue-winged wasps indicates that green June beetle or Japanese beetle white grubs are present in nearby turf and that turf should be monitored for grub abundance and damage. If no damage is notable, let



Scoliid wasp adults fly over turf grass in search of white grubs in the soil to serve as food for their young.

Photo: Mike Wilder, from <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu>



Scoliid wasp adult (*Scolia dubia* shown here) feed on the nectar of golden rod and a variety of flowering plants.

Photo: Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

these beautiful wasps do their thing. Although Scoliid wasps may appear a bit intimidating when first seen in large numbers flying over the turf, they are not aggressive towards humans. Blue-winged wasps are beneficial and can make a significant contribution towards suppressing white grub populations and ultimately reduce damage to turf. In addition, adult blue-winged wasps and other scoliid wasps feed on the nectar of a diversity of flowers providing pollination services. A few years ago, about this time of year, Marie Rojas (IPM Consultant) shared a video of insect activity on a planting of mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* sp.) at her farm. Particularly exciting, was the abundant number of scoliid wasps, specifically *Scolia dubia*, busy feeding on the floral resources provided by mountain mint. Mountain mint is a great addition to conservation gardens. This native flowering plant is attractive to a large diversity of pollinators and natural enemies such as bees, wasps, butterflies, and more. However, this plant can be somewhat aggressive in a garden so you have to keep an eye on it.



White grubs.

Photo: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

[Click here to see a video of *Scolia dubia*, blue-winged wasp, feeding on floral resources of mountain mint, spotted-horse mint, and golden rod](#) (video by Maria Rojas and Mike Raupp).

[Click here to see a video filmed in slow motion of adult blue-winged wasps, *Scolia dubia*, swarming over turf grass.](#) (YouTube by Nadiv Bagim)

Weed of the Week

By: Kelly Nichols

Fall Germinating Weeds

Soil temperatures remain warm; here in Montgomery County, they are in the low to mid-70s (° F) at 2 inches below the soil surface. As temperatures start to decline, be ready for the start of fall germinating weed season. Remember pre-emergent herbicides need to be applied prior to the germination of the weed seed, not just as the seed germinates. Some products have both pre- and early post-emergent efficacy, but that is more the exception and not the rule.

Some of our common fall-germinating weeds are annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media*), henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*), purple deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*), hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), and corn speedwell (*Veronica arvensis*). All of these will germinate once soil temperatures drop to 68° F or below. As soil temperatures drop to 70° F in the top two inches, be prepared to put out a pre-emergent herbicide to stay ahead of the weed emergence. Granular herbicides need moisture to be activated.



Figure 1. Annual bluegrass seedling.
Photo Credit: Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Maryland Mesonet is a network of weather stations across the state that includes soil temperatures; there is at least one station in most Maryland counties. It can be accessed at <https://mesonet.umd.edu/>. For other states, <https://www.soiltemps.com/> is a website that uses data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Soil temperatures can vary within microclimates (e.g. amount of sun, brick buildings that reflect heat back to the soil). Soil thermometers can be purchased at reasonable prices to keep track of soil temperatures locally.



Figure 2. Common chickweed seedlings. There are usually no hairs on the leaves.
Photo Credit: Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Figure 4. Purple deadnettle seedling. This looks a lot like henbit; as the leaves mature, they will take on a triangular shape.
Photo Credit: Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org

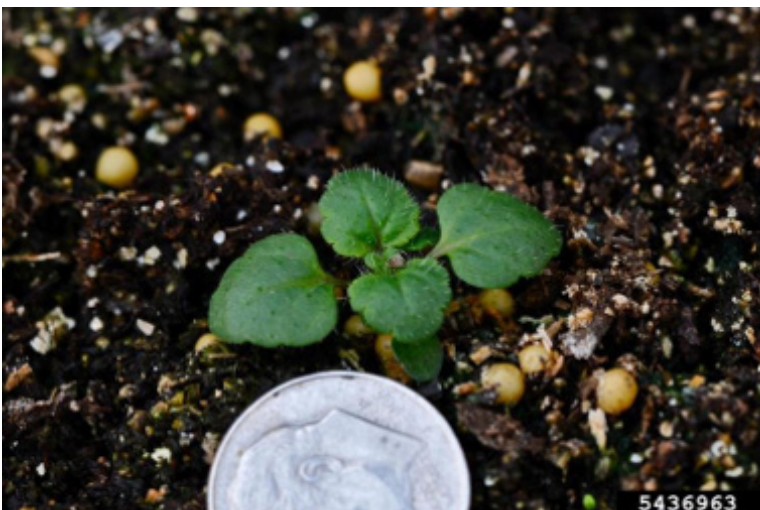


Figure 6. Corn speedwell seedling. Note the stiff hairs on the leaves.
Photo Credit: Bruce Ackely, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Figure 3. Henbit seedling.
Photo Credit: Doug Doohan, Ohio State University/OARDC, Bugwood.org



Figure 5. Hairy bittercress seedling. The first true leaves are deeply lobed.
Photo Credit: Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org

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 **2836 DD** (Clarksville) to **3823 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.

Fern scale – egg hatch / crawler (2nd gen) (**2813 DD**)

White prunicola scale – egg hatch / crawler (3rd gen) (**3238 DD**)

Banded ash clearwing borer – adult emergence (**3357 DD**)

Tuliptree scale – egg hatch / crawler (**3472 DD**)

Spotted lanternfly – egg laying (**Sept.**)

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 September 2, 2026)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	3441
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	3405
Belcamp (FS836)	3320
Clarksville (001MD)	2836
College Park (KCGS)	3517
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	3428
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	3562
Frederick (KFDK)	3114
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	3279
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	3049
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	3145
Millersville (MD026)	3411
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	3823
Perry Hall (C0608)	3189
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	3400
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	3589
Westminster (KDMW)	3435

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

[2026 Urban Tree Summit](#)

September 23, 2026

Location: Silver Spring Civic Center, Silver Spring, MD

[2026 Cut Flower Program](#)

September 29, 2026

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD (lectures), and Tanglewood Flower Farm, Ashton, MD (tour)

UME IPM Pest Walk at Salisbury University

October 14, 2026 (11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Location: Salisbury University's Glenda Chatha Clarke Arboretum, Salisbury, MD

FALCAN Truck & Trailer Safety Seminar

October 14, 2026

Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD

Registration opens in July.

Maryland Turfgrass Conference

December 15, 2026

Location: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

December Integrated Pest Management Conference

Date and location will be posted when confirmed.

2027 Advanced Landscape IPM PHC Short Course

This is a recertification short course for arborists, landscapers, IPM consultants, horticulturalists, professional gardeners, and others responsible for urban plant management. The course lectures will be held over four days at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. In addition, there will be a hands-on lab following lecture (available to a limited number of course attendees). Coordinators: Drs. Paula Shrewsbury and Mike Raupp, Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland

Lecture dates: Monday, January 4 - Thursday, January 7, 2027 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lab dates: Monday, January 4 - Thursday, January 7, 2027 from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (space limited)

Course information: <https://landscapeipmphc.weebly.com/>

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2027-advanced-landscape-ipm-phc-short-course-tickets-1992372702386?aff=oddtcreator>

Questions contact: Amy Yaich, 301-405-3911, umdentomology@umd.edu

Maryland Arborists' Association Conference

January 12, 2027 (snow date in January 13, 2027)

Location: Howard Community College, Columbia, MD

FALCAN Pest Management Conference

January 22, 2027 (snow date is March 12, 2027)

Location: Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD

LCA Pest Management Conference

January 28, 2027

Location: Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD

Chesapeake Green Horticultural Conference

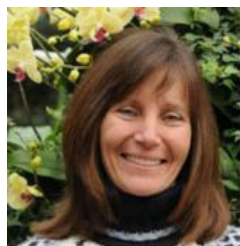
February 11 and 12, 2027

Location: Maritime Institute and Conference Center, Linthicum Heights, MD

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

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

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