

Commercial Horticulture

May 30, 2025

## In This Issue...

- [June programs](#)
- [Phlox plant bug](#)
- [Bagworms](#)
- [Botrytis](#)
- [Slugs](#)
- [Aphids](#)
- [Spotted lanternfly update](#)
- [Weather and ambrosia beetles](#)
- [Azalea lace bugs](#)
- [Pitch mass borer on spruce](#)
- [Anthracnose on maple](#)
- [Abnormal growths on plants](#)
- [Maskell scale](#)
- [Crapemyrtle bark scale](#)
- [Periodical cicada-Brood XIV?](#)

## Beneficial of the Week:

Aphids and their mummies

## Weed of the Week:

Crabgrass

Plant of the Week: Spider lily (*Tradescantia virginiana*)

## Pest Predictive Calendar Phenology Conferences

## Integrated Pest Management for Commercial Horticulture [extension.umd.edu/ipm](http://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](mailto:sklick@umd.edu)

## Coordinator Weekly IPM Report:

Paula Shrewsbury, Professor and Extension Specialist in Ornamental and Turf IPM, Department of Entomology, [pshrewsbury@umd.edu](mailto:pshrewsbury@umd.edu)

## Regular Contributors:

Pest and Beneficial Insect Information: Paula Shrewsbury (Extension Specialist) and Nancy Harding, Faculty Research Assistant

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

Weed of the Week: Kelly Nichols, Nathan Glenn, (UME Extension Educators), and Chuck Schuster (Retired Extension Educator)

Cultural Information: Ginny Rosenkranz (Extension Educator, Wicomico/Worcester/Somerset Counties)

Fertility Management: Andrew Ristvey (Extension Specialist, Wye Research & Education Center)

Design, Layout and Editing: Suzanne Klick (Technician, CMREC)

## June 17, 2025 IPM Scouts' Session

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (check-in starts at 12:30 p.m.)

Location: CMREC, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Program to diagnose insect, disease, and cultural problems on greenhouse, nursery, cut flower, and landscape plants. Bring samples for help with identification of plant problems. The program will focus on how to diagnose plant problems. Microscopes will be available for looking at samples. Paula Shrewsbury, Andrew Ristvey, and Dave Clement will be available to answer questions and provide additional information.

## To register via Eventbrite

To register via check, send check payable to University of Maryland to June 17 IPM Session, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

## Stanton A. Gill Symposium

June 24, 2025

Location: CMREC, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Co-Sponsors: University of Maryland Extension and Maryland, Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA)

MNLGA is handling [the registration](#) for this symposium.

## Phlox Plant Bug

Barbara Katz, London Landscapes LLC, reported that phlox plant bug (*Lopidea davisi*) is very active on phlox and Solidago 'Fireworks' this week. These bugs use their stylets to pierce plant tissue and extract plant juices. Look for the yellow stippling and distorted foliage caused by this feeding. The feeding by this plant bug can stunt plants. There are two generations per season in Maryland. If adults are present, females are laying eggs into the stems. It will be important to closely monitor plants for the second generation that is active July into September.

For control of this plant bug in the landscape, options include horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, azadirachtin, and flupyradifurone (Altus). Make treatments as soon as you see that the insects are active. Avoid applications during periods of high temperatures. To reduce impact on beneficials, make pesticide applications early or late in the day when pollinators are not active. The eggs of the second generation are inserted into the plant tissue by the fall so cutting and removing dead plant stalks helps reduce the population for the following season.



**Phlox plant bug damage; Nymphs (left) and adults (right) are feeding on the tip growth of phlox.**  
**Photos: Suzanne Klick, UME**

## Bagworms

Last Friday, Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, found a lot of bagworms on an oak. Egg hatch is listed as 635 DD for bagworms, so they should be hatching throughout the area. Monitor plants closely for bagworms. Control measures are most effective when larvae are small.

Control options for young bagworms, and other caterpillar pests, include applications of products with the following active ingredients: *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*, spinosad (ex. Conserve), chlorantraniliprole (ex. Acelepryn), tebufenozide (ex. Confirm), or other labeled products



**A lot of early instar bagworm larvae are feeding on this oak leaf.**  
**Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout**



## Gray Times Ahead

By: David L. Clement

With recent prolonged periods of rains in our area, Gray mold caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, may become more visible on old flowers and yellowing foliage of annuals and herbaceous perennials. In some cases, infected tissue can become fuzzy gray overnight, or may become spotted. In severe cases infection of petiole stubs can lead to stem cankers. Prolonged humidity and our high summer temperatures can create a perfect storm for infection.

### Management

Sanitation in the form of grooming older leaves and removal of old flowers from plants is the most important step in managing *Botrytis* infection. When possible avoid irrigation late in the day to allow foliage to dry before nightfall. Thin or space plantings to promote better air circulation. Unfortunately, fungicides cannot control heavy infections, and in addition, *Botrytis* has developed resistance to several fungicide groups. The best management strategy is to keep up with your maintenance schedules and to remove any older flowers and foliage before infection.



**Botrytis infection on geranium.**  
Photo: Karen Rane



**Close-up of Botrytis spores.**  
Photo: David Clement, UME



## Slugs Are Active

The recent wet weather has increased activity of slugs. Look for irregular holes on foliage, slime trails, and slugs on plants, pots and other structures. Mesurol is an option for control. Christi Palmer published an IR-4 Project summary on the [efficacy of low-risk materials against the brown garden snail](#).

In the May 3, 2024 IPM Report, Paula Shrewsbury wrote the Beneficial of the Week article on '[What Eats Slugs](#)'.



A slug moving across the sidewalk at the research center on May 30.  
Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME

## Aphid Activity

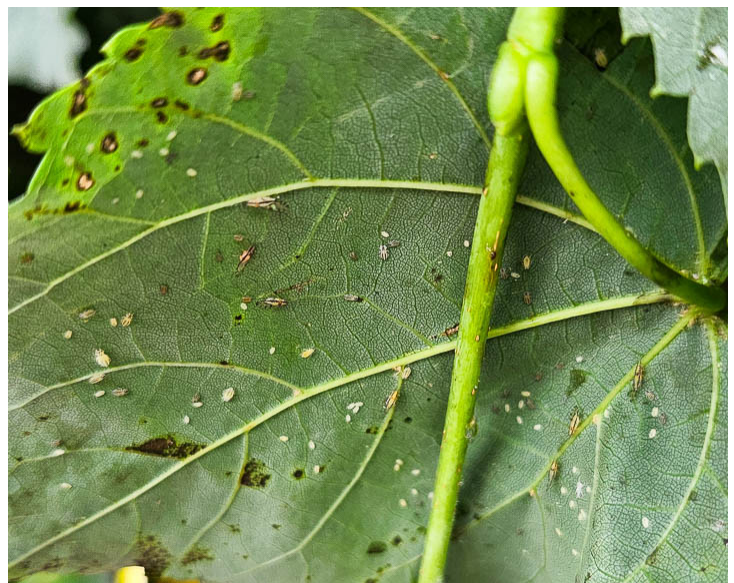
Marie Rojas, IPM Scout, is finding aphids on *Centranthus ruber* (red valerian) this week. Marie also noted that there were a few aphid mummies and ants tending the aphids.

Sam Fisher, Bartlett Tree Experts, found linden aphids on lindens this week. This aphid is usually not a problem on *Tilia americana*, but can cause damage to introduced linden species. Linden aphid produces a large amount of honeydew. Look for beneficial insects feeding on the aphids. Often, control measures are not necessary. Linden flowers are highly attractive to pollinators. If treatments are needed, do not treat when trees are in flower.



Aphids and aphid mummies (red arrows) are covering this red valerian stem.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



Nymphs and winged adults of linden aphids are on the underside of this leaf.

Photo: Sam Fisher, Bartlett Tree Experts

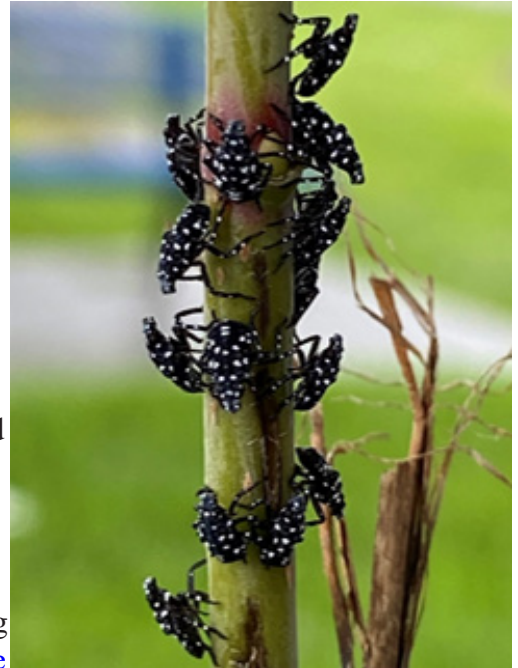


## Spotted Lanternfly Update – Lots of nymph activity

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Spotted lanternfly (SLF, *Lycorma delicatula*) nymphs continue to be reported from multiple locations. Currently, it looks like there are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instar nymphs active in most locations. There are four nymphal instars before the SLF become adults, which usually occurs in July with first adult activity around 1112 DD. SLF nymphs were reported from Adamstown, Bowie, Edgewater, and Severna Park, MD. Plants reported with SLF were *Asclepius* (milkweed), Akebia vine and holly.

*What should you do with all the SLF nymphs?* It depends on the circumstances. *In landscapes*, at this time of year when SLF are in early nymphal stages (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> instars) on established trees and other vegetation you likely do not need to do much. The nymphs are small and do not produce much honeydew, and they move a lot among different types of plants and vegetation. If you treat one plant, SLF may show up on a different plant. If you want to treat the nymphs, go with a short residual contact insecticide rather than a systemic since the nymphs will not be on the plants long. *In landscapes and nurseries*, if you are moving plants or other materials with SLF nymphs, then you need to follow [state quarantine and treatment regulations](#) which involves removing / getting rid of SLF on plants before movement. [For information on chemical and other control options for SLF, and their biology and ecology, go to this Penn State Extension SLF Management Guide.](#) Be sure to read chemical labels and consider pollinator and natural enemy protection when using chemical options.



Spotted lanternfly nymphs foraging on the stem of *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven) in Howard County MD. Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD

## Weather and Ambrosia Beetle Update

By: Paula Shrewsbury

It has been another rainy and relatively cool week and ambrosia beetle activity in the traps is low. We had two reports of ambrosia beetle borer activity (frass toothpicks). One was in a dead ‘Galbun’ fig in Montgomery County MD and the other was in an *Ailanthus* tree that had recently been treated an herbicide in Mitchellville, MD. Of interest, we have had several reports of fig trees being attacked by ambrosia beetle this season. Most reports discuss that the figs did not do well over the winter and had received winter damage, likely making them susceptible to ambrosia beetles.

Be sure to continue to monitor for signs of borer activity and treat to protect susceptible trees as needed. See the [April 18, 2025 IPM Alert](#) for more information on ambrosia beetles and treatment. We will continue to run the ambrosia beetle traps and keep you informed on what we find.

If anyone finds ambrosia beetle activity in trees, please let me know ([pshrewsbury@umd.edu](mailto:pshrewsbury@umd.edu) and copy [sklick@umd.edu](mailto:sklick@umd.edu)) where, when, and on what type of tree and send pictures.

Frass “toothpicks” in the wood of a dead ‘Galbun’ fig produced by an adult ambrosia beetle boring into the wood.

Photo: Marie Rojas, IPM Scout



## Azalea Lace Bug Adults on Azalea

By: Paula Shrewsbury and Nancy Harding, UMD

Sam Fisher, Bartlett Tree Experts, found azalea lace bug, *Stephanitis pyrioides* (Hemiptera: Tingidae) adults active on azalea on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Georgetown, Washington D.C. This pest is particularly injurious to evergreen azalea varieties, although deciduous varieties may also be attacked. Azalea lace bugs overwinter as eggs inserted into the underside of leaves along major veins and there are 4 generations per year. I believe the adults found this week are the beginning of the second generation of azalea lace bugs. Both nymphs and adults cause damage to the host plant by using their piercing/sucking mouth part (stylets) to remove cell contents of the leaf tissue resulting in yellow stippling on the upper leaf surface. Heavy feeding will cause the leaves to appear whitish (see picture). Adults and nymphs leave black or brown fecal spots on the underside of the leaves. When monitoring for azalea lace bugs, look for the characteristic stippling and black fecal spots. Focus on azaleas in open, simple habitats with low plant vegetation as they are more likely to outbreak with azalea lace bug.

### *Recommendations:*

**Biological control.** There are a range of predators that feed on azalea lace bug that include lady beetles, lacewings, and other predacious bugs, in addition to an egg parasitoid. Biological control can be enhanced by increasing landscape diversity. Lacewing larvae (predators) can be purchased and released where there are populations of lace bug nymphs.

**Chemical control.** If populations are high, use insecticidal soap or oil (ensure contact with lace bugs on the underside of the foliage), or systemic insecticides that move into the plant through the soil or foliage [ex. flupyradifurone (Altus, EPA reduced risk pesticide); pymetrozine (Endeavor, EPA reduced risk pesticide)]; or other labeled products. Please be sure to follow directions on the insecticide label.

For additional information see:

<http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2013/1/23/lace-bugs-on-the-attack>  
<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/lace-bugs-trees-and-shrubs/>



**Underside of an azalea leaf showing azalea lace bug adults and fecal spots.**

**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**



**Characteristic stippling damage on azalea foliage from azalea lace bug feeding.**

**Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD**



## Pitch Mass Borer on Spruce

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Ben Morris, SavATree, found pitch mass borer damage and a larva on a Norway spruce in New Jersey on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Great find and pictures Ben! Pitch mass borer is the larvae of the native clearwing moth, *Synanthedon pini*, Family: Sesiidae) and attacks species of spruce and pine, especially stressed or damaged trees. Moths are active and lay eggs in the summer. Larvae bore into the tree and tunnel under the bark to the cambium which results in pitch (resin) flowing out of the tree and hardening, often containing sawdust / frass in it. Pitch mass borer has a 2-3 year life cycle (2-3 years as larvae). Larvae pupate in the pitch mass and adult moths emerge in the early summer. Pitch mass borer will attack large trees. Large globs of white-ish pitch will be seen where borers have attacked the tree. They will enter at wounds (broken branch) and attack healthy trees. Overall damage is reported to not usually effect the overall health of the tree or warrant chemical controls.

**Recommendations:** Physically destroying individual larva is an effective means of control. At each pitch mass, pitch can be removed and the larva destroyed. Removing the caterpillar from the pitch mass can kill it.



**Clearwing pitch mass borer damage and larva (circled) on Norway spruce.**  
Photo: Ben Morris, SavATree

For more information go to: [UMass Extension publication](#)

## Anthracnose on Maple

Ginny Rosenkranz, UME, found anthracnose infection on silver maple this week on the Eastern Shore. As noted in the article last week on [Anthracnose leaf diseases](#), now is the time we are seeing the symptoms of infection. Maintaining tree vigor through adequate fertilization, watering the root zone, mulching and pruning can help lessen the impacts of anthracnose. Practices that increase air flow and sunlight penetration, such as thinning, may help reduce the duration of leaf wetness necessary for infection to occur, and help reduce symptoms. On young, or stressed trees, preventative fungicides can be applied at bud break at labeled intervals until foliage is fully expanded, or until dry weather prevails. Injections of labelled systemic fungicides can also be performed for large mature specimen trees.



**Anthracnose infection on silver maple.**  
Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME



## Abnormal Growths on Plants

By: D.L. Clement

Trees and other woody plants often have large or interesting swellings on their trunks or branches. The cause is often difficult or impossible to determine. Possible causes include pathogens, mechanical, or environmental injury, or genetic mutation. The terms burl and gall are often used interchangeably to describe these abnormal swellings. The swelling results from cells that divide more rapidly than normal (hyperplasia) coupled with excessive cell enlargement (hypertrophy).

Burls are generally considered to be part of the tree and are large woody trunk, or stem swellings that are eventually covered in bark. Internally, they often bear many undeveloped buds, or aborted adventitious roots that result in very interesting grain patterns.

Galls tend to have more specific causes such as bacteria, fungi, insects, or mites. They can occur on leaves, stems, roots, or even flowers. Examples of galls include *Exobasidium* leaf and flower gall on rhododendron, black knot on cherry, crown gall on numerous host plants, fusiform rust on pine, root knot nematode galls on numerous hosts, and phylloxera gall on numerous hosts etc..



*Exobasidium* gall on azalea is caused by a fungus. More information is available in the [May 17, 2024 IPM Report](#).

Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME



The cause of these cool-looking growths on *Stewartia* has not been determined.

Photos: Jean Scott



## Maskell Scale on Cryptomeria

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Ben Morris, SavATree, found Maskell scale on Cryptomeria on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Maskell scale, *Lepidosaphes pallida* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) is a native armored scale that is extremely small, tend to be down low in the whorls or leaf axils of Cryptomeria, and are difficult to detect. They are light brown, have oystershell shaped covers, and are up to 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch in length. They usually require a hand lens to see them. In addition to Cryptomeria, Maskell scale also attacks juniper, arborvitae, Chamaecyparis, cypress, deodar cedar, and red cedar. There are two generations per year with 1<sup>st</sup> generation crawlers active around 470 DD and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation around 2035 DD. Most areas in MD are well past 1<sup>st</sup> generation crawler emergence. If you have plants with Maskell scale monitor them now to see what stages are present. Be sure to watch for second generation crawlers later this season (2035 DD). If control measures are warranted, treat crawlers with the IGRs buprofezin (Talus) or pyriproxyfen (Distance) – both are EPA reduced-risk insecticides.



Close up image of Maskell scale on Cryptomeria.

Photo: Lorraine Graney, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bugwood.org

## Crapemyrtle Bark Scale – A lot of eggs and crawlers JUST starting

By: Paula Shrewsbury

Sheena O'Donnel (CMREC Research Tech., UME) monitored crape myrtle trees on Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> for crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS), *Acanthococcus lagerstroemia*, in University Park, MD. The previous week she noted lots of ovisacs with pink female adults under them and that most of the females had pink eggs, and just very few crawlers also pink-ish in color. This week she noticed a few more crawlers than last week, but still the majority of CMBS were adult females and eggs. **In this scenario**, I would suggest it is too early to treat with an IGR (wait until more of the crawlers have hatch and are crawling – around 25 – 50% emergence), but if you plan to treat with a systemic you should consider applying the treatment soon to give the product time to get into the tree.

Anyone who has CMBS on crape myrtles should be closely monitoring for the presence of crawler activity ([click here for good video showing crawler activity](#)).

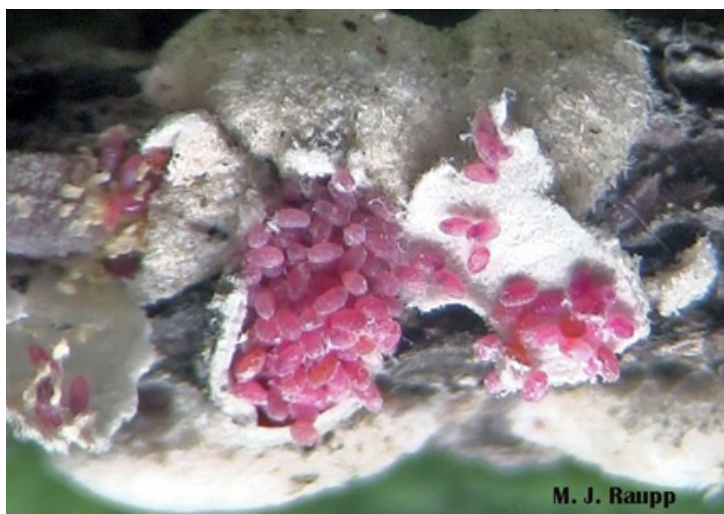
Egg hatch and crawler activity CMBS is reported to occur around 724 DDs. Many, but not all, areas of MD are around 724 DDs or past already.



A close-up of several ovisacs (egg-sacs) of female CMBS and encrustations of black sooty mold covering a branch.

Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD

*Recommendations:* What this information tells us is the peak crawler activity is not far away. Be sure to monitor crape myrtle trees for crawler activity and be prepared to treat heavily infested trees for CMBS. Be sure to use a hand-lens or other magnification. Flip the white ovisacs and look to see if there are live CMBS pink females, pink eggs, or pink crawlers. Eggs mean crawlers will emerge soon; crawlers mean it is time to treat with an IGR or systemic product. Note systemics could down slightly before peak crawler emergence since it will be in the tree for a while. Live CMBS will be pink to purple in color and will gush this color when you squish them, dead ones won't gush and look dried out. Depending on the density of the population and how many trees you are managing, you can use mechanical control such as a soft scrub brush and water to physically wash the scales off the branches and trunk of the tree. There are also multiple chemical controls that are available for CMBS suppression. These include systemics such as dinotefuron, or contacts such as horticultural oil or other labeled products. Good options for suppressing CMBS are to target the crawler stages with insect growth regulators such as pyriproxyfen or buprofezin. Be sure to follow label directions to protect natural enemies and pollinators and get optimal control.



Hundreds of pink eggs from beneath the CMBS egg sac were exposed. If you are seeing lots of ovisacs with eggs, then keep monitoring for crawlers and target treatments for that stage.

Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD



Crape myrtle bark scale nymphs).

Photo: Jim Robbins, University of Arkansas, CES, Bugwood.org

## Periodical Cicada – Brood XIV?

By: Paula Shrewsbury

We recently received reports of periodical cicada sightings. Mike Raupp (UMD) found one in Sharpsburg, MD on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Nicolas Tardif (Ruppert Landscape) spotted one in Laurel, MD on May 26<sup>th</sup>, and Rebeccah Waterworth (EPA) heard them calling (singing) in Laurel, MD on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Brood XIV, a 17-year brood, has been and is still emerging this spring (2025). According to the maps and other information on periodical cicadas, Brood XIV is supposed to emerge in Virginia, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia, but not MD. However, there have been numerous observations of periodical cicadas this spring in MD as noted in [iNaturalist](#) and on the [Cicada Safari map](#). There is some uncertainty among Cicada researchers whether the cicadas seen in MD are Brood XIV cicadas or possibly [stragglers](#) from Brood X, individuals



Adult periodical cicada found in Sharpsburg, MD on May 18, 2025.

Photo: P.M. Shrewsbury, UMD



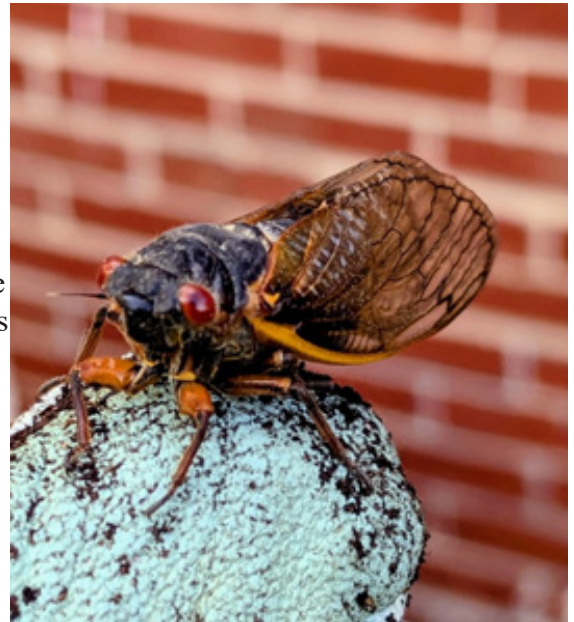
that emerged four years behind the massive emergence of their brood-mates in 2021. To better understand the complex life cycle and broods of periodical cicadas go to:

[Bug of the Week – March 18, 2025 \(by Mike Raupp\)](#)

[Bug of the Week – March 24, 2025 \(by Mike Raupp\)](#)

[Cicadas – Univ. of Connecticut](#)

If you see periodical cicadas in MD or the DMV area, please be sure to report it (a picture is required) on the [Cicada Safari app](#). Scientists need as much data as possible to try and unravel the mysteries of periodical cicadas.



An adult periodical cicada found in Laurel, MD on May 26, 2025.

Photo: Nicolas Tardif, Ruppert Landscape

## Beneficial of the Week

By: Paula Shrewsbury

### Aphids and their mummies

Reports of aphid activity on various plants continue to come in such as linden aphid on lindens, witch hazel gall aphids on witch hazel and river birch, rose aphid, woolly beech aphid on beech, woolly apple aphid on elm, uroleucon aphid on black-eyed susan and Silphium, crape myrtle aphid on crape myrtle, and others. This seems like a good time to discuss natural enemies that attack aphids.

The upside of aphid infestations is that in many situations chemical controls are not needed due to suite of natural enemies that ultimately reduce, and often eliminate, aphid populations. The aphid natural enemy complex includes various species of lady beetles, predatory flies such as syrphid (flower) flies and *Aphidoletes* midges, lace wing predators, and parasitic wasps. Today I would like to discuss the parasitic wasps (Family: Braconidae) since

I often observe aphid populations, usually at pretty low levels, that have been attacked by these parasitoids. The tell-tale sign of tiny wasps killing aphids is the presence of **aphid mummies**. These wasps locate plants infested with aphids, the female wasp will then “sting” (lay her egg in) an aphid. [Click here to watch as a wasp aggressively attack ill-fated aphids](#) (video by M.J. Raupp, UMD). Aphids do their best to kick and push the female wasp away but the wasps are aggressive and often win the battle. The wasp’s abdomen is articulated and highly mobile allowing her abdomen to curl beneath her body providing a frontal assault on the aphid. At the tip of her abdomen is an ovipositor and as she “stings” the aphid, her egg is inserted into the aphid’s body. The egg hatches and the wasp larva feed on the insides of the aphid. During this process the aphid’s body becomes swollen or bloated looking, and the exoskeleton turns from its natural color to tan and has the look of a papery



An *Aphidius* female wasp stinging (inserting an egg) into a live aphid.

Photo: Peter Bryant, from BugGuide.net)

shell – hence the name aphid mummy (see images). Not surprisingly this results in the death of the aphid. As the wasp larva completes its development it pupates within the aphid. When the adult is formed it chews a discrete circular hole (see image) in the exoskeleton of the aphid and emerges from the mummy. At this point the female wasps can move on to parasitize other aphids. Each female wasp can kill up to 400 aphids in its lifetime. In addition to these tan aphid mummies parasitized by *Aphidius* wasps, there is another genus of parasitic wasp, *Aphelinus*, which similarly attacks and ultimately kills aphids. However, the bloated bodies of *Aphelinus* parasitized aphids turn to shiny black mummies rather than tan. As you are out scouting your plants and watching the lady beetles and flower flies devouring your aphids, be sure to look for those aphid mummies! Aphid parasitoids can have a tremendous impact in reducing aphid populations and are a major player in the natural enemy complex attacking aphids on herbaceous and woody ornamental plants. When aphids are on your plants, remember you usually don't have to do anything but wait and let the natural enemies do their thing.



**Tan aphid mummy image – Rose aphid mummy with a parasitic wasp in the genera *Aphidius* developing within it.**

**Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD**



**Black aphid mummy image – Oleander aphid (orange color) colony showing black aphid mummies which were parasitized by a wasp in the genera *Aphelinus*.**

**Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD**



The aphid mummies that you see here indicate that tiny Braconid wasps have parasitized the aphids providing biological control. Holes seen in some of the mummies tell us adult wasps have emerged from them already. Mummies without holes still have wasps developing within them.

**Photo: M.J. Raupp, UMD**



## Weed of the Week

By: Kelly Nichols

Crabgrass season is in full swing! Large crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*) is a summer annual weed very common in lawns, landscapes, fields, and roadsides. The first leaf to appear will be wide and short in length (Figure 1). As the seedlings grow, the membranous ligule and hairs on the leaves and stems (Figure 2) will become more evident. The seedhead is finger-like, hence the “digit” in “*Digitaria*” (Figure 3). Smooth crabgrass (*Digitaria ischaemum*) looks similar but has no hairs and is an overall smaller plant.

Post-emergent products for crabgrass control into late May and June include quinclorac (Drive), mesotrione (Tenacity), and combinations of quinclorac plus carfentrazone (SquareOne) or sulfentrazone (Solitaire). For non-synthetic options, chelated iron (Fiesta) provides some control. In a 2024 study at the University of Maryland’s Turfgrass Research Center in College Park, the high rate (8 lbs/1,000 sq ft) of the granular formulation provided 80-85% control when applied twice at 3-, 4-, or 6-week intervals. The mid-rate (12.6 fl oz/1,000 sq ft) of the liquid formulation provided 87% control when applied at a 4-week interval. The first application was in early April. Nitrogen only applied at a 4-week interval provided 88% control, indicating the importance of good soil fertility and healthy turf in combating weeds like crabgrass. Other key components of a crabgrass management plan include proper mowing height and proper pH. Build a strong turf that is dense. This prevents sunlight from reaching the soil to allow germination of crabgrass seeds.



**Figure 1. Large crabgrass seedling leaves are wide and short.**

**Photo Credit: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.**



**Figure 2. Large crabgrass stem and leaf with hairs.**  
**Photo Credit: Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org.**



**Figure 3. Flowering finger-like seedhead.**

**Photo Credit: Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org.**

## Plant of the Week

By: Ginny Rosenkranz

*Tradescantia virginiana* or spider lily is a clump forming native herbaceous perennial that thrives in full to part shade and moist, fertile, well drained soils. The plants can grow from 1 ½ feet tall to 3 feet tall and spread out 1-1 ½ feet wide. The one-inch purple to blue 3 petaled flowers have 6 bright yellow stamen that glow against the dark blue and bloom for one day. Clusters of buds occur at the top of the flower stems, opening a few buds each morning giving color to the garden from late May to early July. When in bloom, the flowers attract many pollinators including bees, bumble bees and butterflies. The dark green arching foliage can be up to a foot long and an inch wide with an entire margin and folded in the middle to form a groove. The stems of the spider lily have a viscous secretion when cut which becomes thread-like and silky when it hardens, looking like a spider's web. After flowering, trim off the stems to encourage more flowers later. The plants grown in the southern parts of Maryland may go dormant during the heat of summer, but the foliage will emerge in the autumn. Spider lily plants are cold tolerant in USDA zones 4-9 and are tolerant of wet soils and Black Walnut. There are no serious diseases or insect pests, but wet weather in early spring can bring snails that feed on the foliage. These lovely flowering natives can be planted in woodland gardens, pollinator gardens and even rain gardens.



*Tradescantia virginiana* does well in full to part shade.  
Photos: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

## Pest Predictive Calendar “Predictions”

By: Nancy Harding and Paula Shrewsbury, UMD

In the Maryland area, the accumulated growing degree days (DD) this week range from about **663 DD** (Greater Cumberland) to **1070 DD** (St. Mary's City). 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.

- Potato leaf hopper – adult arrival (**603 DD**)
- Black vine weevil – adult emergence (**607 DD**)
- Twospotted spider mite – egg hatch (**627 DD**)
- Bagworm – egg hatch (**635 DD**)
- Cottony camellia/Taxus scale – egg hatch / crawler (**649 DD**)
- Mimosa webworm – larva, early instar (1<sup>st</sup> gen) (**674 DD**)



Juniper scale – egg hatch / crawler **(694 DD)**  
 San Jose scale – egg hatch / crawler (1<sup>st</sup> gen) **(723 DD)**  
 Crapemyrtle bark scale – egg hatch / crawler (1<sup>st</sup> gen) **(724 DD)**  
 Calico scale – egg hatch / crawler **(765 DD)**  
 Oak lecanium scale – egg hatch / crawler **(789 DD)**  
 Rhododendron borer – adult emergence **(815 DD)**  
 Japanese maple scale – egg hatch / crawler (1<sup>st</sup> gen) **(829 DD)**  
 Dogwood borer – adult emergence **(830 DD)**  
 European elm scale – egg hatch / crawler **(831 DD)**  
 European fruit lecanium scale – egg hatch / crawler **(904 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 lantern fly – first adult activity **(1112 DD)**  
 Fall webworm – egg hatch (1<sup>st</sup> gen) **(1142 DD)**  
 Indian wax scale – egg hatch / crawler **(1145 DD)**  
 Oriental beetle – adult emergence **(1147 DD)**  
 Peachtree borer – adult emergence **(1181 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 May 28, 2025)

Annapolis Naval Academy (KNAK)	733
Baltimore, MD (KBWI)	850
Belcamp (FS836)	688
College Park (KCGS)	834
Dulles Airport (KIAD)	812
Ft. Belvoir, VA (KDA)	898
Frederick (KFDK)	725
Gaithersburg (KGAI)	775
Greater Cumberland Reg (KCBE)	663
Martinsburg, WV (KMRB)	714
Millersville (MD026)	782
Natl Arboretum/Reagan Natl (KDCA)	1048
Perry Hall (C0608)	674
Salisbury/Ocean City (KSBY)	788
St. Mary's City (Patuxent NRB KNHK)	1070
Westminster (KDMW)	882

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

June 17, 2025 (afternoon)

### **IPM Scouts' Diagnostic Session**

Location: CMREC, Ellicott City, MD

[Registration Information](#)

June 18, 2025

### **[Eastern Shore Pesticide Recertification Conference via Zoom](#)**

June 18, 2025

### **MAA Evening Plant Diagnostic Clinic**

Location: Hood College, Frederick, MD

[Registration Information](#)

June 24, 2025

### **Stanton A. Symposium and Lab Dedication**

Location: CMREC, 4240 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Co-Sponsors:** University of Maryland Extension and Maryland, Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA)

MNLGA is handling [the registration](#) for this symposium.

June 27, 2025

### **Pesticide Recertification Conference**

Location: Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD

[Registration information](#)

July 24, 2025

### **MNLGA Growers Day at North Creek Nurseries**

[Program and Registration Information](#)

September 11, 2025

### **MNLGA Field Day**

Location: Raemelton Farm, Adamstown, MD

October 29, 2025

### **FALCAN Truck and Trailer Safety Seminar**

Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD



## Commercial Ornamental IPM Information

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

---

### CONTRIBUTORS:



Paula Shrewsbury  
Extension Specialist  
pshrewsb@umd.edu



David Clement  
Plant Pathologist  
clement@umd.edu



Ana Cristina Fulladolsa  
Plant Pathologist  
acfulla@umd.edu



Nathan Glenn  
Extension Educator  
Howard County  
nglenn@umd.edu



Nancy Harding  
Faculty Research  
Assistant



Kelly Nichols  
Extension Educator  
Montgomery County  
kellyn@umd.edu



Karen Rane  
Plant Pathologist  
UMD-Retired



Andrew Ristvey  
Extension Specialist  
aristvey@umd.edu



Ginny Rosenkranz  
Extension Educator  
Wicomico,  
Worcester, Somerset  
Counties  
rosnkranz@umd.edu



Chuck Schuster  
Retired, Extension  
Educator,  
cfs@umd.edu

Thank you to the Maryland Arborist Association, the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association, Professional Grounds Management Society, FALCAN, and USDA NIFA EIP Award # 2024700043556 for their financial support in making these weekly reports possible.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by University of Maryland Extension is implied.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.