

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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Issue 15

INSECTS

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

TWO SPOTTED SPIDER MITES: This pest group was found on some plants already and environmental conditions will favor their development as we progress through summer. This mite species prefers hot and dry conditions. The two-spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae*, is a pest of landscapes and greenhouses. Plants attacked by two-spotted spider mites include: roses, *Euonymus*, *Baptisia*, dogwood, pear, butterfly bush, marigolds, cannas, viburnum, chrysanthums and many others.

Spider mites inject their mouthparts into plant cells and suck out cell contents causing a flecking or stippling on the leaves. Heavy infestations build webs, decrease plant vigor, and can cause premature leaf drop. Two-spotted spider mites feed on the underside of leaves, are yellowish green with a spot on either side and adults are active 437 - 3518 [1894 peak] GDD. Females lay an average of about 140 eggs when temperatures exceed 80 F and a generation can be completed in a week.

Sample for spider mites by shaking plant material over a white sheet of paper. Mites will appear as rapidly moving dots and will smear when smashed. Conduct sampling at least every other week during the summer. Also look for stippling or webbing.

Dislodge some mites by spraying plants with a strong stream of water. Predatory mites and other predators feed on two-spotted spider mites, but they may have difficulty keeping populations low under ideal conditions. Horticultural oil, Hexygon, Floramite, Forbid Avid, Kontos, and Sanmite are some of the miticides available for mite control. Pyrethroids and Merit (imidacloprid) are documented to cause increases in mite populations. Use these products for other pests only when necessary and closely monitor mite populations after application.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

CERCOSPORA BLIGHT ON LEYLAND CYPRESS *Cercospora* needle blight, caused by the fungus *Cercosporidium sequoiae* (syn. *Asperisporium sequoiae*; *Cercospora sequoiae*), is a relatively new disease on Leyland cypress. However, it is a common disease on species of *Juniperus*, *Thuja*, *Cupressus*, *Taxodium*, *Cryptomeria*, *Sequoia* and other genera. Early symptoms of *Cercospora* needle blight include browning of needles in the lower crown next to the stem. The disease slowly spreads upward and outward until, in severe cases, only the needles at the tips of the upper branches remain green. Symptoms are similar to severe stress where the interior needles turn yellow and drop. Fruiting bodies of the

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

What's Hot!

Rainy weather has brought out lots of mushrooms in lawns and flower gardens, even planter boxes. Harmless, not a sign of plant disease.



Mushrooms in rail planter box. Photo credit: N. Gregory

Crabgrass, goosegrass, Japanese stiltgrass and yellow foxtail are highly invasive annual grasses that germinate in spring and cause lawn problems in summer. Preemergence control in early spring is best, but now postemergence control is required. Key herbicides include Acclaim Extra, Drive XLR8, MSMA, Pylex and Tenacity. Creeping bentgrass in highly sensitive and no products are labeled for bentgrass greens. These herbicides are most effective in early July when newly tillered weed grasses are growing above turf canopy. For more information on recommendations for each of these products, contact Sue Barton (sbarton@udel.edu) to receive a copy of Pete Dernoeden's newsletter "Dr. Pete's TURF TIPS".

For more information

on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line (for home gardeners only)	831-8862
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

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Diseases (Continued)

fungus appear as small, greenish clumps on the upper surface of the needles or on small twigs. Spores are produced in the spring and summer and are spread by wind. Infection usually occurs during periods of wet weather. There are no fungicides registered specifically for *Cercospora* on Leyland cypress, but copper products are registered for general use on ornamentals. Spray plants twice at 10-day intervals from bud break.

PHYLLOSTICTA LEAF SPOT, sometimes called frog-eye leaf spot, is caused by the fungus *Phyllosticta minima*, and is common on red, silver, Norway, and sugar maple species. Round spots or lesions will appear on the leaves, usually in the lower third of the tree where there is more moisture. Leaf spot disease is more severe in rainy seasons. Most trees are able to tolerate the disease but measures can be taken to prevent further spread of infection. Avoid excessive water on the tree and rake up leaves that fall. In rare severe cases, fungicides can be used in the spring.

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist



Phyllosticta fungal leaf spot on maple. Photo credit: N. Gregory



TSSM. Photo credit: Frank Peairs, Colorado State U



Drive is more effective in summer when crabgrass is in the 5-6 tiller stage and before seedheads are produced. Photo credit: Pete Dernoeden



Pylex is unique in that it can kill multi-tillered goosegrass in bentgrass when applied properly. Photo credit: Pete Dernoeden



Multi-tillered crabgrass with seed heads is very hard to control. Photo credit: Pete Dernoeden