It is time to subscribe or resubscribe to Ornamentals Hotline. This one-page newsletter will tell you what you need to know about pests, diseases, weeds and cultural problems in the landscape. It is published weekly during the growing season. Contributors scout the landscape and monitor Cooperative Extension calls. Reading Ornamentals Hotline will keep you in tune with your customers and their landscape problems. Learn when to scout for pests and diseases. Here is an example of the type of information Ornamentals Hotline will provide:

**SUNSCALD or FROST CRACKS** might be a problem this year if March weather turns cold after our warm February. Tree bark warmed by the sun in winter, can reach a temperature as much as 18 degrees warmer than the air temperature. When clouds shade the bark or temperatures drop quickly at nightfall, the bark and cambium layer beneath is damaged. This type of freeze damage is called sunscald. Frost cracks occur when temperature fluctuations are extreme. Water in the cells of the tree trunk freezes and moves out of the cells, causing the wood to shrink. Tension between the frozen and unfrozen layers of wood is so great that the wood separates, causing a crack. When temperatures warm, the wood absorbs moisture and the crack closes. Frost cracks can reopen and enlarge in subsequent winters and may extend to the center of the tree. Damage to tree trunks in most likely on the south and west sides of the tree where the sun is strongest. The following species are more likely to develop frost cracks: apple, beech, crabapple, elm, goldenrain tree, horse chestnut, linden, London plane, maple, oak, walnut, and willow.

**HOTLINE ONLINE.** If you choose to receive Ornamentals Hotline via email, you will get color images included in the emailed pdf. We have been including color photos in the online version for several years now and have received many comments from subscribers who appreciate being able to see the pests or the damage. Images help a lot in ID! The mailed version will be the same black and white copy as in the past and you will need to go to the blog (http://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/) to find images of the mentioned pests.

Visit Delaware Cooperative Extension on the Web. Here is the URL for commercial horticulture:
Http://extension.udel.edu/lawngarden/commercial-horticulture/

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Thirty dollars provides you with a subscription of “Ornamentals Hotline” for 2017 (26 issues). To subscribe, fill out the application below and send with a check payable to “University of Delaware” to: Susan Barton, Dept. of Plant & Soil Sciences, Townsend Hall, Newark, DE 19716-2170.

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