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IPMnet
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 sgill@umd.edu

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IPM Report Survey - Please Help

By: Stanton Gill

We sent out a survey for this IPM report. If you have not already done so, we would appreciate it if you would fill it out and provide us with feedback. It's available at https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_0JHTM4FqjzvhiUK.

Conferences

There is still space available for the December 8, 2022 Turf Nutrient Management Conference at Carroll Community College in Westminster. It is a morning session that will provide 3 PFA CEUs. You can also still sign up for the December 15, 2022 Advanced IPM Conference for pesticide recertification. It is also at Carroll Community College.

Registration information and a listing of other conferences are posted on the [Conferences Page](#) of the IPM website.

Horticulture Industry is Going More Electric

By: Stanton Gill

Mark Twain said "It's not the progress I mind, it's the change I don't like." The infrastructure bill that passed through Congress this fall is having a widespread impact. Over 500,000 electric charging stations are being built across the USA. Ford released the Lightning truck which is amazing. They even offer that you can retrofit a standard F-150 with twin electric motors that give the truck greater torque and pickup. Amazing, to say the least. For the diehards there will still be gas and diesel vehicles around, but they will be a smaller part of the mix. You will still be able to sport around in your gas antique for many years.

At the board meeting for the arborists, we were discussing topics for their January 17 and 18, 2023 meeting. One of the topics that came up is that many municipalities are requiring use of electric leaf blowers and chainsaws. I bought my first Stihl chainsaw 3 years ago. I have two bigger gas Stihl chainsaws, but I mainly use the electric one at our farm. It is very powerful and will work on fairly large trees. I use two batteries so I can keep working as one is fast charging. The one thing is I would check into buying chaps that work with chainsaws. The protective chaps that are presently on the market stop a gas-powered chainsaw since it has a clutch and when the fibers in the chaps catch the blade they disengage the clutch. You are protected.

This is not so with electric chainsaws since they do not have a clutch. The Maryland Arborist Association is looking for anyone who has a good solution for protection when using electric chainsaws. If you know of a protection material, please send me an e-mail at sgill@umd.edu.

Maskell Scale Found on the Eastern Shore

By: Stanton Gill

If you are rooting cuttings of *Thuja* 'Green Giant' or 'Emerald Green', examine foliage closely for Maskell scale, *Lepidosaphes pallida*. We received samples from arborvitae on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with a fairly heavy population of this armored scale. In low populations, it is hard to detect, but if you examine foliage with a magnifier you should be able to detect the elongate brown cover (teste) of the scale. Do not take cuttings off infested plants or you can easily spread this problem into the rest of your nursery.



Look closely at arborvitae for Maskell scale.
Photo: Karen Rane, UMD

Boxwood Problems

By: Stanton Gill

Here is an interesting one – In Mid-November we took in a sample from a nursery that had container grown boxwoods. The plants had a thriving population of an armored scale on the branches. The scale is *Unaspis euonymi*, common name euonymus scale. *Unaspis euonymi* feeds on more than just euonymus. We have seen this armored scale on holly, pachysandra, boxwood and bittersweet (*Celastrus*) over the years.

The scale overwinters as third instar, gravid females. Not much you can do at this time of year but in spring when temperatures reach 55 °F for a couple of days you can apply 2 – 3% horticultural oil. The crawlers will be active in April – May. Second generation is in late summer, usually July through August. Distance or Talus can be applied at crawler emergence.



The small, white euonymus scale is difficult to detect along the boxwood stem.

Using the Healing Power of Pet Insects

By: Stanton Gill

At the ESA meetings, there was an interesting poster by South Korean Entomology Researchers. They stated that Korea has the fastest aging population in the world. They set up field trials with elderly Koreans (65 and older) in which they gave them 5 crickets in cages with detail instructions on how to raise them.

In America, there are several programs where dog owners bring in well behaved dogs to hospitals with children patients and elder homes. My brother and his wife have been part of this dog-hospital-visit system for several years. The dogs have a very positive impact on the mental state of children and elderly patients.

South Korean entomologists are looking for an inexpensive and effective care-taking process to help people confined to hospitals. Dogs work, but some people are allergic to dogs and you need to keep recruiting dog owners who have well trained, friendly dogs.

The cricket-raising method gives patients something to focus on other than their physical pain. Since pet insects are inexpensive and easy to care for they have a strong potential as an alternative-animal assist therapy that is used as a non pharmacological treatment for aging adults and for children.

In their program, they handed out 5 crickets to each patient with a rearing cage, food, and detailed instructions on how to care for the crickets. They observed their reactions over 8 weeks. All the results were very positive. They are now expanding their trials in South Korea.

One additional side benefit - Crickets in South Korean and Chinese cultures is a symbol of good luck.

Use for Black Soldier Flies

By: Stanton Gill

While attending and speaking at the International Entomological Society meetings last week I had time to talk with one of our University of Maryland research entomologists, who is stationed at our Gaithersburg Campus. One of the projects he is working on is using black soldier flies to deal with human waste. At some army bases they will often take waste human waste material (human fecal droppings) and put it in 50-gallon metal barrels then pour in diesel fuel and burn it. This produces terrible fumes that are carried into the air. President Biden has talked about his son who severed in the military being exposed the fumes from this waste reduction method at military bases.

Our University of Maryland research entomologist is looking at using black soldier flies, *Hermetia illucens*, to feed on the human waste. The larvae feed on the solid waste material, then pupate. They are investigating if then the pupae of the larvae can be ground up and used as an animal feed source. Normal animal forage feed has about 1% protein. The ground up black soldier flies produce 2% protein. Doubling the protein content helps fatten up animals faster.

They are also looking at using the black soldier flies to process human waste for future flights to Mars. Interesting solution using insects to deal with a waste disposal problem.

We Need Sites to Trial a New Box Tree Moth Trap

By: Sheena O'Donnell, UME

Box tree moth or boxwood moth (*Cydalima Perspectalis*) is a new species of concern in the US, introduced sometime between 2020-2021. We are working with USDA APHIS to test the efficacy of a trap for this new pest and we need sites in Maryland to do this. The traps are in the shape of a plastic bucket and they need to be hung at about 4 feet from the ground, about 60 feet apart. APHIS suggests using 5 foot poles for mounting, near Boxwood when possible. The traps target the adult life stage so we should start placing them out in early April. There is a photo of the trap included. Contact Suzanne Klick [sklick@umd.edu] if you are interested in participating in this trial.



Conferences

December 8, 2022 (Morning session)

Turf Nutrient Management Conference

Location: Carroll Community College

[For more information](#)

December 13, 2022

Maryland Turfgrass Conference

Location: Turf Valley, Ellicott City, MD

[For more information](#)

December 15, 2022

Advanced Integrated Pest Management Conference

Location: Carroll Community College

[For more information](#)

January 11-13, 2023

MANTS

Location: Baltimore Convention Center

January 3, 4 and 5 AND January 10, 11, and 12, 2023

UMD IPM Short Course

Lecture times: 7:45 am – 11:30 am Eastern Standard Time

Location: Virtual via Zoom

2 day in-person lab (8:00AM - 3:00PM)

Lab dates: Tuesday and Wednesday January 17 and 18 (8:00AM - 3:00PM)

Location: In person at University of Maryland Campus, College Park, MD

Course and Registration Information: <https://landscapeipmphc.weebly.com/>

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

January 17 and 18, 2023

MAA Winter Conference

Location: Turf Valley, Ellicott City, MD

January 27, 2023

FALCAN Conference

Location: Frederick Community College

February 6, 2023

Western Maryland Pest Management Conference

Location: Allegany Fairgrounds, Cumberland, MD

February 15, 2023

2023 Eastern Shore Pest Management Conference

Location: Salisbury, MD

February 16 and 17, 2023

Chesapeake Green Horticultural Symposium

Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

Commercial Ornamental IPM Information
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