

October 6, 2021

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European Pepper Moth Active

By: Stanton Gill

The European pepper moth (EPM), *Duponchelia fovealis* (Zeller), a relatively new invasive species, was confirmed in a Maryland greenhouse operation in 2013. In 2021, professional IPM scout, Heather Zindash, is finding this caterpillar active in greenhouses and herbaceous perennial nurseries. If you own or work in a greenhouse that produces ornamentals and vegetable crops, then be alert and on the lookout for the European pepper moth and its larvae.



European pepper moth wilting damage on poinsettia and girdling at base of stem, adult moth, and larva

The larvae chew on the base of plants girdling the plant in the process. A larva will web together silk at the base of a plant when it is ready to pupate. Moths fly at night, but if disturbed in daylight, they zig zag across greenhouses and dive back into plant material cover rapidly.

If you find a caterpillar that looks like the one in this article, then get a sample in for identification immediately.

Some of the plants we have seen the caterpillars feeding on are: poinsettia, chrysanthemum, geranium, petunia, and aster.

Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener, reports European pepper moth on the following plants:

*Bergenia** Winterglut #1 (in dead plant material), *Heuchera* ‘Palace Purple’, *Chrysogonum virginianum* ‘Pierre’, *Chelone glabra*, *Penstemon* ‘Husker Red’, *Heuchera* ‘Plum Pudding’, *Heuchera* ‘Palace Purple’, *Heuchera* ‘Autumn Bride’, *Waldsteinia ternata*, *Geranium* ‘Bevan’s Variety’, *Anemone sylvestris*, *Carex* ‘Bunny BlueHobb’, *Carex* ‘Bunny Blue’, *Kalimeris* ‘Blue Star’, *Alchemilla erythropoda*, *Kalimeris* ‘Daisy Mae’, *Veronica* ‘Royal Candles’, *Heuchera Americana* QT, *Geum triflorum*, *Ratibida* ‘Red Midget’, *Oenothera fruticosa* #1, *Penstemon digitalis* #1, *Polemonium reptans*, *Astilbe* ‘Vision in Pink’ #1 (multiple other *Astilbe* spp)

Thrips Control on Cut Flowers

By: Stanton Gill

During our IR-4 zoom meeting, I brought up that very few materials can safely be used on commercial cut flowers when thrips populations build up. OHP researchers said that two insecticides called Saria and Pradia are labeled on cut flowers for thrips suppression. Another material called Spear-T is a bio-insecticide that is also labeled on cut flowers for thrips control. I have not had a chance to test these materials out yet, but they are labeled for this use.

Aphids on Pansies

By: Stanton Gill

Check pansies because we have received reports of outbreaks of aphids. Melon aphids and green peach aphids are usually what we see on plants. Control options include Endeavor and Altus.



Monitor pansies for aphids this fall

Conferences

December 16, 2021

Biological Control Conference

Organized by University of Maryland Extension and MNLGA; Registration will be done through MNLGA
Registration information will be provided when available

Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

2022 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 VIRTUAL (online). In addition, there will be an IN-PERSON LAB held over two days (available to a limited number of course attendees). Coordinators: Drs. Paula Shrewsbury and Mike Raupp, Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland

Lecture (virtual) Dates: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; January 4, 5 and 6 AND January 11, 12, and 13

Lab (in-person) dates: Tuesday and Wednesday January 18 and 19

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

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

January 5 - 7, 2022

MANTS

Location: Baltimore Convention Center

February 17 and 18, 2022

Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium

Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

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