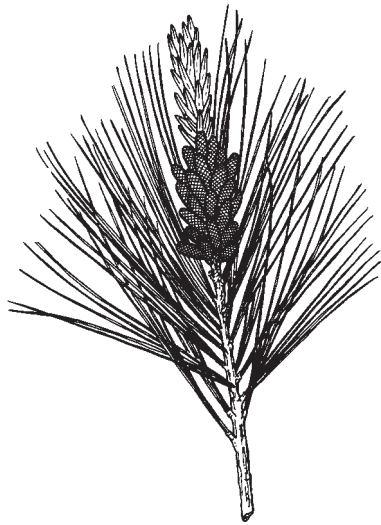


PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

LANDSCAPE, NURSERY & TURF EDITION \$1.50

SEPTEMBER 24, 1998



Ornamentals Pest Notes

Deborah Smith-Fiola, Ocean County Agricultural Agent, and Steven Rettke, Program Associate in IPM

✓ **WHITE PINE SAWFLY:** The second generation of this lesser-known sawfly feeds primarily upon eastern white pines during September and October. Larvae are distinctive in color, having a cream body with a black head and 4 rows of black spots. As with all sawfly larvae, they have more than 5 pairs of abdominal prolegs. The feeding damage is usually not as severe as compared to the European pine sawflies on 2-3 needle pines. Larvae feed in groups on both the older, inner needles as well as the current year's growth. Early feeding activity causes needles to appear scorched, brown and twisted. When larvae consume all the needles on one branch, they move to another one. When monitoring, look for signs of defoliated white pine branches.

Manually remove and destroy larvae in light infestations affecting only a few branches. They can be knocked to the ground and stepped on if you don't mind gumming up your shoe bottoms (they are full of the pine pitch). Thoroughly spraying small larvae with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil will provide good control. When necessary, Scimitar, Dursban, Tempo or Sevin will provide immediate kill.

✓ **OAK LACE BUGS:** This summer, many of our white oak trees throughout the area are showing characteristic feeding damage from the oak lace bug. Some trees observed had virtually every leaf being affected by this insect. From a distance, the symptoms on the leaves are similar to the injury caused by oak spider mites. Also from a distance, the pale or yellow discoloration of the leaves caused by these pests is similar to that caused from classic leaf scorch. Closer inspection will determine the identity of the pest.

If some of the affected oak tree leaves are turned over and scrutinized, many have a batch of 30 to 50 tiny black "spikes" arranged in a circular area of 3/4" in diameter or less. These are not fecal material from the lace bugs, but actually are the eggs of the oak lace bug. Eggs were recently laid by the adult females from the first generation which began earlier in the summer. Some adults are still around, as well as some nymphs, indicating the start of the new second generation.

Even though the leaf discoloration caused from oak lace bugs can be alarming — to the extent that action seems necessary — spraying is not generally recommended. Tall landscape oaks would require a large volume of spray material that would not be appropriate or responsible. Tree injections with systemic insecticides may be of questionable value

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Calendar of Events

October 23-25, 1998: Tree EXPO/NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Meeting, Atlantic City. Contact the NJSTF at 732-246-3210.

November 4-6, 1998: Eastern Regional Nurserymen's Association Expo, New Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City. Contact ERNA at 800-376-2463.

November 12, 1998: 1998 Philadelphia Regional Greenhouse Conference and Poinsettia Varieties Trial, Warrington Motor Lodge, Warrington, PA and Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA. Co-sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and Delaware Valley College. Contact Thomas Contrisciano 610-378-1327.

November 19, 1998: New Jersey Landscape IPM Symposium, Ramada Inn, Rt. 9 & Rt. 70, Toms River, NJ. For information call Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County at 732-349-1246.

November 20, 1998: North Jersey Landscape IPM Conference, Radisson Inn, Fromm Rd., Paramus, NJ. For information call NJLCA at 201-225-0500.

December 8-10, 1998: Turf Expo, Trump Taj Mahal Casino/Resort, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact Bea Devine at the NJ Turfgrass Association at 732-821-7134.

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since the injection holes would probably do much more damage than the lace bugs. This pest primarily creates an aesthetic concern, since it is doubtful the insect is significantly reducing the tree's ability to store starches and sugars for the next season.

✓ **BAGWORMS:** Adult male bagworms have been flying and mating. Remember that the brown male moths mate with females who remain in the bags. Upon emergence, the males are attracted to a sex pheromone emitted by the females. Between 100 to 400 eggs are typically laid within the female bag, which overwinter until they hatch the following June. Why not manually remove these bags before they hatch next year?

If your controls against bagworms have been less than satisfactory over the years, then undoubtedly your spray timing has been incorrect. This pest needs to be monitored and treated in mid-June to mid-July to achieve best results. If treatments are not applied until late July (when most clients first notice the symptoms), then controls will be poor. A pesticide this late in the season may stop the feeding, but many of the bagworms may not be killed. They will adjust to the presence of the insecticide by pupating earlier than normal (early August instead of a couple of weeks later). Hence, these late spray treatments often do not prevent egg laying and the problem repeating itself the following June.

✓ **BANDED WOOLLYBEAR CATERPILLAR:** The fall migration of the banded woollybears has begun. Since these yellow, white and brown banded caterpillars generally feed on grasses and weeds in pastures and meadows, they can only be classified as nuisance pests. Mature caterpillars search for protected spots (under logs or rocks) to spin their cocoons.

Woollybears supposedly have the ability to forecast the harshness of the upcoming winter season. The "old wives tale" implies that the length of the black band foretells how long the cold part of the winter will be, while the brown band predicts how much mild weather will occur. As one might expect, inspecting a number of these critters during any given fall season will undoubtedly reveal a wide variation in the caterpillar markings. You can always show off the one you would like to believe! (*Source: The P.E.S.T. Newsletter; 22 Sept. 1997*) □

Wildlife Damage Resources

Three recent factsheets on wildlife damage are available from Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Who to Call Regarding Wildlife Damage (FS887), Portable Electric Fencing for Preventing Wildlife Damage (FS888) and High-Tensile Woven Wire Fences for Reducing Wildlife Damage (FS889). Contact your County Agricultural Agent.

Also, fencing is still available through the NJ Department of Agriculture's Deer Fencing Program. Contact your Rutgers Cooperative Extension County Agricultural Agent for the current application.

To be eligible to receive deer fencing under this joint initiative, an applicant must be:

- A New Jersey farmer having documented proof of a minimum of \$40,000 in sales or agricultural commodities produced by the applicant on their New Jersey farm.
- A farmer with a federal identification number.
- The owner of the land upon which the fencing will be erected.

NOTE: A New Jersey farmer listed on the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife's existing list as of 12/1/97 is automatically eligible for the initial distribution in this program regardless of the two previous requirements and does not need to submit application to this supplemental program. However, those with applications pending at FG&W after 12/1/97 must fill out this application to be eligible for this supplemental allocation of fence. □

Plant Diagnostic Laboratory Highlights

Richard Buckley, Coordinator, Plant Diagnostic Lab

Turfgrass

Gray leaf spot, caused by the fungus *Pyricularia grisea*, continues to grab the spotlight in the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory during September. This disease has become more common over the past several seasons and can be quite devastating to perennial ryegrass fairways. Furthermore, it appears that the fungus has finally moved into residential lawns. At this point, the period of active disease may be over; however, the turf manager must be vigilant if perennial ryegrass is being used for renovation projects. **Gray leaf spot** is especially hard on seedlings. Samples of the disease were submitted from golf courses in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Monmouth, and Morris Counties, as well as from courses in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Home lawns from Cape May, Camden, and Burlington Counties were also diagnosed with the disease.

Copper spot, caused by the fungus *Gloeocercospora sorghi*, was diagnosed on bentgrass golf greens in Somerset County. In recent years the disease was identified on the bentgrass at the Rutgers research farm, but has not recently been seen in the "real world" until now. **Copper spot** is most troublesome on low pH soils, so those of you on **take-all** management programs may have something else to think about. Many other disease problems were submitted to the laboratory this month. Diseases of note include: **fairy rings** on golf turf from Monmouth County; **anthracnose** from courses in Colorado, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey; **dollar spot** from golf turf in Virginia, Maryland, and Monmouth County; and **brown patch** from several New Jersey residential lawns.

Landscape and Nursery

Oak leaf scorch, caused by the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, is the disease of note on landscape plants this September. The disease was confirmed in numerous samples of red and pin oak from Mercer County. Another sample was confirmed from a tree on a Somerset County estate. Several other samples from southern and central counties are currently in the laboratory with suspect symptoms.

In the nursery, **flatheaded appletree borer** caused significant injury to a large block of newly transplanted oaks. The same Monmouth County nursery also had problems with **oystershell scale** in the *Halesia* and elm plantings, as well as **fusicoccum canker** on the ash.

Poinsettia growers are starting to submit samples to the laboratory at this time. **Choanephora wet rot** was identified on points from an Ocean County grower. This disease is prevalent in crowded, high humidity greenhouses. A grower from Mercer County brought in plants that were diagnosed with **rhizoctonia root rot**. □

Diseases of Turfgrass

Bruce B. Clarke, Ph.D., Turfgrass Pathology

Pink Snow Mold

This disease, caused by the fungus *Microdochium nivale* (*Fusarium nivale*), is starting to appear on greens and tees. Apply Banner, Chipco 26019, Cleary 3336, Curalan, Fungo, Heritage, Touche, or Vorlan to stop current infections. For best results, apply any of these fungicides (or PCNB) in early to mid-October and then repeat in late-January if the snow cover recedes. Do not reapply PCNB after January 15 due to the possibility of phytotoxicity during warm weather.

Stripe Smut

This disease, caused by the fungus *Ustilago striiformis*, will soon be apparent on sensitive Kentucky bluegrass varieties. Symptoms typically appear as long black streaks (striations) between the veins of infected blades. These areas eventually rupture, releasing abundant black smut spores. Research at Rutgers has shown that one well-timed application of a systemic fungicide in early to mid-October offers excellent control and is, therefore, far superior to multiple applications in the spring (mid-May). For best results, apply Banner, Bayleton, Cleary 3336, Eagle, Fungo, Rubigan or Sentinel, now per manufacturer's recommendations.

Turf Expo

This year's Turf Expo will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino/Resort on December 8-10, 1998. This is an excellent opportunity to receive the latest turf management information from nationally renowned speakers. For additional information please contact Bea Devine (732) 821-7134. □

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