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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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Egg Mass on Tree Trunks

By: Stanton Gill

A member of the chestnut society, when examining hybrid chestnuts as part of their selection program for disease resistance, found this egg mass on the trunk of one of the trees. It is the egg mass of an assassin bug, in the family the Reduviidae. When the weather became cold in November, female assassin bugs laid their egg masses on trunks of smooth barked trees. This insect is extremely beneficial. If you see similar egg masses, leave them in place so they can hatch in the spring of 2022.



Look for assassin bug eggs on the trunks and branches of trees
Photo: David Gill

Holly Caterpillar From the South Hits Holly in the North

By: Stanton Gill

We had an inquiry from a Pennsylvania nursery grower who receives the IPM Alerts. They inquired about a holly pest called the holly looper. This insect is also called the black dotted ruddy moth, *Ilexia intractata*. In the South, it has been a major pest of all species of holly with the larvae consuming holly foliage, often in large quantities. It evidently showed up in this PA nursery. It is a southern species of moth but with global warming, it may be adapting to more northern climates. The caterpillar is hard to spot since it is green and blends in with foliage. It has two prolegs on the abdomen and loops up when it moves over surfaces.

If you see this caterpillar in 2022 on holly let me know at Sgill@umd.edu. It should be controlled with a systemic insecticide such as Mainspring or Acelepyrn. A timed supplication of Spinosad should also work on this caterpillar.

Carpenterworm in *Carya ovata*, Shagbark Hickory

By: Stanton Gill

We received an interesting inquiry in late November from Jon Wardick of Pope Farm Nursery. He had a shagbark hickory, *Carya ovata*. With a borer attacking the container grown plants in the nursery. The larva is immature stage of the carpenter worm moth, *Prionoxystus robiniae*. The female moth lays eggs on tree trunks in May and June. The larva cuts into the cambial tissue where the larvae feeds for the first season. As it matures, it moves into the heartwood of the tree. It will use the small entrance hole to push out wood excrement. The larvae lives in the tree for 2 – 3 years before pupating and emerging as an adult moth.

Monitor in spring for wet areas on the trunk, which indicate larvae cutting into the cambium. Apply bifenthrin or permethrin applied before the larva enters the cambium.



Carpenterworm boring into a stem of shagbark hickory
Photos: Jon Wardick, Pope Farm Nursery

Invasive Hammerhead Worm Found in Lisbon, MD

By: Stanton Gill

The hammerhead worm (*Bipalium sp*) was found in late November in a wooded area in Lisbon. The worm looks like a large flattened earthworm with a hammerhead and can be 2" – 8" in length. It also looks like a young snake. It is actually a large terrestrial planarian with a spade-shaped head and ventral foot or "creeping sole" used for locomotion. It is in the order *Tricladida*, Family: *Geoplanidae*. Species are differentiated by the shape of the head, size, coloration, and stripe pattern. Hammerhead worms are native to tropical and subtropical regions but have become invasive worldwide. Because hammerhead worms require humidity, they are uncommon in desert and mountain biomes.

It is a general predator feeding on earthworms and many species of ground dwelling insects. The hammerhead worm is one of only a very few terrestrial invertebrates known to produce the neurotoxin tetrodotoxin.

A hammerhead worm tracks its prey, pushes it against a surface, and entangles it in slimy secretions. Once the prey is mostly immobilized, the worm secretes digestive enzymes, then sucks liquefied tissue into its branched gut using cilia. When digestion is complete, the worm's mouth also serves as its anus. It is not something most people would invite over for dinner at their house.

The planarian contains the potent neurotoxin, tetr, which the worm uses to immobilize prey and deter predators. The toxin is also found in pufferfish, certain octopus species, and rough-skinned newts.

Land planarians are light-sensitive and need high humidity. Because of this, they usually move and feed at night. They prefer cool, damp places, typically residing under rocks, logs, or shrubs.

Now, since they are tropical, they should die during the winter. If they find a nice protected rock or mulch area, they might be surviving in mild winters. If anyone finds one in spring please, let me know at Sgill@umd.edu



Hammerhead worm found in Howard County, Maryland
Photos: Steve Clancy

Conferences

December 9, 2021

Turf Nutrient Management Program (half day)
Location: Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD

December 16, 2021

[Biological Control Conference](#)
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

2022 Advanced Landscape IPM PHC Short Course – Registration is open!

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, Univ. of MD

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://landscapeipmphpc.weebly.com/>

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

January 5 - 7, 2022

[MANTS](#)
Location: Baltimore Convention Center

January 11, 2022

Advanced Nursery/Greenhouse/Controlled Environment Nutrient Applicator Continuing Education
Changed from November 16, 2021 to January 11, 2022 (snow date is January 18)

January 21, 2022

FALCAN Pest Management Conference (currently in person)
Location: Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD
*Snow date is March 11, 2022

LCA Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification (Virtual Program, February 2022)

The Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification will return in 2022 with great speakers and new topics.

February 17 and 18, 2022

Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

March 22 and 23, 2021

MAA Pest Conference
Location: Turf Valley, Ellicott City, MD

IPMnet Website
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