

UConn Diagnostic Summary for July 2018

Prepared by Joan Allen, Diagnostician

Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, Home & Garden Education Center/Plant Diagnostic Laboratory
Not for publication or reproduction without permission of the author. August 9, 2018.

Frequent reports: Fall webworm, Scarabidae beetles (Oriental, Asiatic, June, Japanese, etc), cedar-apple rust, powdery mildew on cucurbits, lily leaf beetle, tobacco budworm (on petunia and geranium), fungal leaf spots of tomato and other plants, black rot of grape, blossom end rot of tomato, anthracnose diseases.

Alerts and News:

Cucurbit downy mildew, a serious disease has been reported in Massachusetts as of this week. No reports in Connecticut so far but it's probably here. The pathogen, *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*, does not overwinter in the north so it tends to arrive later in the season. Symptoms and signs include angular leaf spots and dark sporulation of the pathogen on the lower surface of the leaves in association with the leaf spots. Leaf spots enlarge and coalesce, resulting in browning and death of entire leaves and later the whole plant. More information and images: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/managing_cucurbit_downy_mildew_in_your_garden

New this month: More topics, including those highlighted in images, are hyperlinked to additional information.

Disease of the Month: Black rot of grape (*Guignardia bidwellii*) was identified on samples in the UConn lab and Master Gardener clinics in Fairfield and Middlesex Counties in July. This is one of the most serious diseases of grape in the northeast. Infections and symptoms occur on leaves, fruit and green shoot tissue. Leaf spots and rotting fruit have numerous black fungal fruiting bodies. More information: [Disease Control in Backyard Grapes](#)



Photos from left: Black rot of grape symptoms on leaves and fruit (Purdue University photos).

Arthropod of the Month: Click beetles (family Elateridae) were identified this month at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center and in New Haven County and are known for their ability to produce a 'click' as described here from Wikipedia "[A spine on the prosternum can be snapped into a corresponding notch on the mesosternum, producing a violent "click" that can bounce the beetle into the air.](#)^[2] Clicking is mainly used to avoid predation, although it is also useful when the beetle is on its back and needs to right itself." One of the most striking is the eyed elater which looks like it has large eyes on its thorax in an effort to scare off predators by mimicking a larger (and either scarier or less appetizing) animal.



The eyed elater click beetle and an iridescent species (photos from bugguide.net and pestWiki, respectively).

Plant of the Month: Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum.*), is a wildflower native to the eastern United States. It prefers moist areas and is attractive to butterflies, bumble bees, honeybees and native bees, along with other beneficial insects. It was identified in Litchfield County this month.



Virginia mountain mint leaves and flowers from <https://www.wildflower.org>

Reports by Location

UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory/Home & Garden Education Center

Arthropods on plants

Cross-striped cabbageworm on cabbage
 Borer in black knot on plum
 Fall webworm on blueberry, beech
 Parsleyworm on dill
 Stink bug nymphs on tomato
 Flea beetle injury on tomato
 Eastern tent caterpillar on apple
[Rudbeckia psyllid](#) injury (pictured below, J. Allen photo)



Whitefly on spicebush
 Cottony maple scale on cherry
 Milkweed tussock moth caterpillars (2)
 Spider egg masses on Japanese knotweed
 Mealybug on bean (suspected)
 Tumbling flower beetle on elderberry
 Japanese beetle on rose
 Eriophyid mites on river birch
 Aphids on lettuce
 Two-spotted spider mite on bean
 Thrips on Allium, pepper
 Aphids on birch
 Squash bug eggs on zucchini
 Squash vine borer on pumpkin
 Ambush bug on tomato
 Blackberry psyllid (suspected from image)

Milkweed bug nymph on cucurbit
 Colorado potato beetle larvae
 Oriental fruit moth larva in peach fruit
 Clear wing moth on strawberry
 Asiatic garden beetles
 Tobacco hornworm
 Crowned slug moth caterpillar on cabbage
 Garden fleahopper on Nepeta (catnip)

Arthropods - other

Elateridae
 Pill bugs
 Hickory tussock moth caterpillar
 Prionid beetle
 Leafhopper-hunting wasp
 Green June bug
 Carpet beetle larva
 Packard's lichen moth
 Western conifer seed bug
 Mosquito larvae
 Click beetle
 Pandora sphinx moth
 Stag beetle
 Newly molted dragonfly

Plant Diseases

Rhizoctonia root/crown rot on lavender, Dahlia, Allium,
 Pachysandra (Japanese), Coreopsis
 Rhizoctonia web blight on aster
 Black root rot on phlox (2)
 Black knot on plum
 Pestalotiopsis leaf blight on Rhododendron
 Pestalotiopsis leaf spot on Hypericum
 Fusarium root rot on Echinacea 'Flamenco'
 Fusarium wilt/rot on Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
 Phomopsis dieback on privet
 Early blight on tomato (Suspected from image)
 Oak leaf blister
 Volutella blight on boxwood (3)
 Botrytis gray mold on strawberry
 Mycosphaerella leaf spot on strawberry
 Anthracnose on cucumber
 Septoria leaf spot on Pachysandra procumbens
 Pyricularia leaf spot on Hakonechloa
 Pythium root rot on Hakonechloa
 Botryosphaeria on boxwood (3), holly, azalea
 Fusarium on boxwood
 Black rot of grape
 Dutch elm disease on American elm
 Gymnosporangium rust on apple, crabapple
Rose rosette virus on rose (pictured below with 'witches
 brown and abnormal flowers on left of the plant, J. Allen)



Phytophthora root rot on lavender, Heucherella
 Bacterial wilt on winter squash, zucchini
 Frog-eye leaf spot of apple
 Apple scab on crabapple
 Unidentified dieback on azalea, rhododendron
 Pythium root rot on Miscanthus
Bacterial leaf spot on Echinacea, fern, Salvia, Alchemilla,
 Nepeta, vinca



J. Allen photo

Stagonospora leaf spot on Pennisetum
 Impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) on staghorn fern

Plant ID

Hemerocallis sp.
 Nightshade
 Tall blue lettuce
 Wild radish
 Redroot pigweed
 Wineberry
 Purslane
 Purple loosestrife
 Virginia creeper (2)
 Moss
 Willow
 Jade plant
 Hydrangea macrophylla
 Mulberry
 Oriental bittersweet
 Poison ivy
 Ground ivy (creeping Charlie)
 Enchanter's nightshade
 Monarda

Cultural Problems

Nutrient toxicity in greenhouse tomato
 Abiotic leaf discoloration on Rudbeckia, Echinacea
 High ammonium nitrogen and high pH in mums
 Winter injury on boxwood (suspected)
 Suspected cold temperature injury on Kousa dogwood
 Abiotic leaf scorch on climbing hydrangea
 Iron deficiency in *Vinca minor*
 Suspected nutrient deficiency in flowering dogwood
 Blossom end rot of tomato
 Captan injury to apple fruit (suspected)
 Blotchy ripening (physiological mottling) of greenhouse
 tomato
 Suspected spray injury on marigold and zinnia

Other

Polymer crystals in lawn
 Stinkhorn fungus in garden

Fairfield County (submitted by Thomas MacGregor)

Arthropods on Plants: Fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea*, on apple, blueberry, and Kousa dogwood; hornworm, *Manduca quinquemaculata*, on tomato; leafminer on clematis; insect damage on coneflower; tent caterpillars on dogwood; giant root borer, *Prionus sp.*, in garden; [chinch bugs in turf](#); Asiatic garden beetles on marigolds and geraniums; Asiatic garden beetles and slugs on coneflower; tobacco budworm caterpillar on petunias; plum curculio, *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, with gummosis and hemlock woolly adelgid, *Adelges tsugae*.



Chinch bug damage to a lawn (Univ. of Illinois) and close-up of a nymph (left with short wing pads) and adult chinch bug (from Turf Magazine).

Arthropods (other): eastern cicada killer; polyphemus moth, *Antheraea polyphemus*; anobiid powderpost beetles, green June beetle, *Cotinus nitida*; rove beetle; ichneumon wasp; blue mud wasp; grass carrying wasp; ant; and unicorn caterpillar moth.

Plant Diseases: black rot on grapes; *Septoria* leaf spot on tomato; *Alternaria* on tomato; cedar-apple rust (2), *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*; powdery mildew on squash; *Cercospora* leaf spot on Rhododendron; cucurbit scab; *Pestalotiopsis funerea* on arborvitae; clematis wilt; geranium fungal infection; and *Stigmima* needlecast on blue spruce.

Plant ID: Mile-a-minute vine, *Persicaria perfoliata* in Brookfield (reported); Virginia creeper; *Hibiscus moscheutos*; *Hibiscus syriacus*; purslane, *Portulaca oleracea*; Indian pipe plant, *Monotropa uniflora*; pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*; Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus* (3); pignut hickory, *Carya glabra*; Eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*; bee balm; ginkgo; black cherry; sugar maple; American beech, *Fagus grandifolia*; *Prunella*; mugwort, *Artemisia sp.*; crabapple; stilt grass, *Microstegium vimineum* (2); Bishop's weed, *Aegopodium podagraria*; clearweed, *Pilea pumila*; black elderberry; cow parsnip; **jewelweed**; red root pigweed, *Amaranthus retroflexus*; willow; goldenrod; and *Hepatica*.



Jewelweed in flower

(https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens_capensis.shtml)

Cultural: pond scum; catfacing on tomato; Hosta leaf scorch; spring annuals early death; tomato blossom end rot; tomato physiological leaf curl (2).

Other: sapsucker damage on apple tree; deer (2).

Hartford County (no report)

Litchfield County (submitted by Michelle Winkler)

Arthropods on Plants

Elderberry borer

[Brown hooded owlet moth caterpillar](#) (Pamm Cooper, UConn)



Japanese beetle damage

June bug on vegetable plants

Fall webworms

Plant Diseases

Powdery mildew on cucumber and dahlia

Plant ID

Liverwort

Virginia mountain mint

Elephant garlic

Cultural

Drought damage on kousa dogwood

Middlesex County (submitted by Gail Reynolds)

Insects and Arthropods on Plants

Cranberry fruitworm in blueberry

[Phylloxera leaf gall on grape](#)



Image: Phylloxera galls with sporulation of grape downy mildew (whitish covering). Photo: Casey Lambert, UConn

Sawfly larvae on dogwood

Aphids on dogwood

Scale insects on lime tree

Tobacco budworm on geranium

Dagger moth caterpillars on oak

Woolly adelgid on hemlock

Fall webworm on dogwood

Insects and Arthropods (other)

Black cutworm

Definite tussock moth caterpillar

Saltmarsh moth caterpillar

Virginia tiger moth caterpillar

Gypsy moth male

Lily leaf beetle

Fall webworm caterpillar

June beetle

Plant Diseases

Wilt of cucumber

Cedar-apple rust

Needlecast of white pine

Suspected Verticillium wilt of raspberry

Fungal spot on tomato leaves

Black rot of grape

Plant and Weed ID

Green ash

Japanese stiltgrass

Wild lettuce (2)

Common violet

Mugwort

Horseweed

Dodder

Many "not giant hogweed"

Cultural

Oak mortality most likely due to several years of defoliation and drought

[Blossom end rot on tomatoes](#)



Redbud mortality likely due to planting in direct sun

Tomato flower loss due to heat

Dahlia under-watering

Other

Vole root damage on mountain laurel

Cowbird egg

New Haven County (submitted by Jude Hsiang)

Arthropods on Plants:

Tomato hornworm on tomato plant
Lilioceris lili, Scarlet lily beetle on lily
Tetraopes tetrophthalmus, red milkweed beetle on milkweed

Arthropods, other:

Boisea trivittata, Boxelder bug
Elateridae, Click beetle
Lucanidae, Stag beetle

Plant Disease:

Sooty mold on *Ficus* sp
Septoria leaf spot on tomato
Basil leaf spot on *Ocimum basilicum*
Anthracnose on *Cornus florida*
Anthracnose on maple, *Acer* sp.



Rhizosphaera needlecast on spruce, *Picea* sp.
Powdery mildew and blossom rot on zucchini
Botrytis on peony
Chrysomyxa rust on *Rhododendron* sp.

Plant and Weed ID:

Juniperus virginiana, Eastern red cedar
Abutilon theophrasti, Velvet leaf
Ocimum basilicum, basil

Alliaria petiolata, garlic mustard
Betula albosinensis, var., Chinese red birch
Centaurea maculosa, spotted knapweed
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata, porcelain berry
(photo above right from [Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin](#))



Prunus serotina, black cherry
Viburnum acerfolium, maple leaf viburnum
Solidago sp., golden rod
Lonicera morrowii, Morrow's honeysuckle
Morus alba, white mulberry
Acanthus spinosa, spiny bear's britches
Ilex glabra, inkberry
Euonymus japonicus, euonymus, variegated
Apocynum cannabinum, hemp dogbane or Indian hemp
Spiraea japonica, Japanese meadowsweet
Robinia pseudoacacia, black locust
Smilax sp, greenbrier
Lonicera sp, honeysuckle
Forsythia sp, forsythia
Fallopia japonica, Japanese knotweed, variegated
Malus, crabapple

Other:

ID mushroom the dog ate – referred to CAES, COMA or Valley Mycological society

New London County (submitted by Paul Armond)

Arthropods on plants

Oriental beetle
Squash beetle
Western flower thrips
Gypsy moths
Grapevine beetle
Fir tussock moth caterpillar
Willow leaf beetle larvae

Other Arthropods

Male eastern Dobsonfly (pictured right, J. Allen)
Sarcophagid fly

Plant Disease

Cedar-apple rust

Plant ID

Houttuynia cordata

Solanum dulcamara



Tolland County (no report)

Windham County (no report)

Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford (no report)

