Frequent reports: Viburnum leaf beetle injury, flea beetles on brassicas and solanaceous crops, Volutella blight on boxwood and pachysandra, Botryosphaeria dieback and suspected winter injury on broadleaved evergreens, lace bug symptoms on broadleaved evergreens, Gymnosporangium rusts.

Alerts and News:
- **Eastern white pine** trees continue to show concerning browning and dieback. This problem has been observed since the 1990s and seems to be worsening. Several needlecast fungi and environmental stress are both thought to be contributing. More information and in the second link, management suggestions.
  - [https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/content-files/alerts-messages/white_pine_management_recommendations.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/content-files/alerts-messages/white_pine_management_recommendations.pdf)
- **Basil downy mildew** resistant sweet basil cultivars are available this year from Rutgers University. Initial release is for commercial growers; I’m not sure if they’re available this year for home gardeners. [https://sebsnjaesresearch.rutgers.edu/2018/03/rutgers-obsession-devotion-thunderstruck-basil/](https://sebsnjaesresearch.rutgers.edu/2018/03/rutgers-obsession-devotion-thunderstruck-basil/)
- **Concerned about GMOs in agriculture?** Learn more about what they are, whether they’re safe to eat, risks to the environment and where they’re currently and potentially used at the UConn GMO team’s new website: [https://gmo.uconn.edu/](https://gmo.uconn.edu/)

**Disease of the Month:** **Daylily leaf streak** caused by the fungus *Aureobasidium microstictum* has been confirmed a couple of times this month. Like most fungal diseases of leaves, it is favored by moderate temperatures and moist conditions, both of which have occurred regularly this spring. Symptoms usually begin as a yellowing centered on the midvein at the leaf tips. As this expands, areas of necrotic or dead tissue develop. Symptoms are similar to those of daylily rust although that disease tends to look spottier. If it’s rust, powdery orange spores will be produced on the leaves. More information: [https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/fact-sheets/daylily-rust-daylily-streak](https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/fact-sheets/daylily-rust-daylily-streak)

Photos from left: Daylily leaf streak and daylily rust (from UMass)
**Arthropod of the month:** Viburnum leaf beetle (*Pyrrhalta viburni*) larvae have been busy chewing on and skeletonizing host plants for the past month or so. They will soon be or have already pupated in the soil. Adults will emerge in early July. This begins the second round of feeding damage. Feeding and mating will be ongoing until a killing frost. The egg stage overwinters. More info and images of the different stages including eggs:

[http://www.hort.cornell.edu/vlb/](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/vlb/)

Viburnum leaf beetle larvae & damage (left) by M.Zubrik, Forest Res. Inst., Slovakia, Bugwood.org and an adult beetle by P. Weston, Cornell University, Bugwood.org

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**Reports by Location**

**UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory/Home & Garden Education Center**

**Arthropods on plants**
- Spinach crown mites
- Lace bug on andromeda (3)
- Lace bug on rhododendron (2)
- Woolly catkin gall on red oak
- Boxwood psyllid
- March fly on apple
- Viburnum leaf beetle
- Sawfly adult on rhubarb
- Cutworm
- Tortoise beetle
- Grape sawfly
- Chewing damage on tomato
- Forest tent caterpillar on black birch
- Vegetable weevil on tomato
- Dogwood borer (suspected)
- Cottoxy camellia scale on holly

**Arthropods - other**
- Winged termite
- Wood louse

**Plant Diseases**
- Boxwood spider mite (3)
- Soldier beetle on magnolia
- Poplar & willow borer damage (suspected)
- Chewing insect damage on magnolia, plum, cherry
- Spruce spider mite injury
- Poecilus beetle
- Orb weaver spider

- Lamium leaf distortion associated virus (LLDAV)
- Leaf spot on cherry laurel (unidentified cause)
- Septoria leaf spot on mountain laurel
- Damping off of arugula
- Cedar-apple rust on crabapple
- Fusarium dieback on boxwood
- Botrytis gray mold on tomato
- Pestalotiopsis dieback on blueberry
- Phytophthora crown rot of *Cornus alba* (suspected)
- Bacterial crown rot of creeping philox
- Bacterial stem rot of sedum
- Bacterial leaf spot of hazelnut (suspected)
Bacterial leaf spot of peony, salvia, Heuchera
Suspected virus on peony
Wood decay, cause unknown
Daylily leaf streak (2)
Phomopsis tip blight of eastern redcedar
Take-all patch of turfgrass
Brown patch of turfgrass
Phylosticta leaf spot of Prunus cerasifera, Schip laurel
Frogeye leaf spot of apple
Bacterial soft rot of kale

**Fairfield County** (submitted by Thomas MacGregor)

**Arthropods on Plants:** *Tiphia* wasps on turf, ground bees on turf, adult boxwood leafminers (4), mite damage on boxwood, elongate hemlock scale.

**Arthropods (other):** Field cricket; carpenter ants (2), varied carpet beetle (*Anthrenus verbasci*), brown marmorated stink bug (2), mealy bugs, ants.

**Plant Diseases:** Black knot of plum (4), azalea leaf gall, *Volutella* blight on boxwood (2), *Volutella* blight on pachysandra, pine needlecast.

**Plant ID:** Wild mustard (2), marginal shield fern, multiflora rose, burning bush, bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, false Hellebore, barberry (2), wild geraniums, speedwell, cherry, dogwood, orchard grass (2), hairy bittercress, inkberry.

**Cultural:** Lilacs pruned late in 2017, no flowers, *Arborvitae* environmental stress, *Spirea* normal growth, winter damage on holly (2), salt and winter damage on boxwood, sapsucker damage on holly, thick thatch on turf, sunscald on weeping birch, genetic mutation of daffodils, *Rhododendron* winter stress.

**Other:** Lichens on azalea, chipmunk damage, voles, artillery fungus.

**Hartford County** (no report)

**Litchfield County** (submitted by David Lewis)

**Insects and Arthropods Identified on Plants:**
Four-lined plant bug instar ID
Bagworm on Arborvitaes
Unidentified insect damage to tomato and basil
Hammerhead worm discovered in soil of plant purchased at a big box store.
(pictured below, UConn photo)

**Insects and Arthropods Not on Plants:**
Blacklegged ticks
Carpenter bees

**Plant Diseases Identified on Samples:**
*Volutella* blight of pachysandra

**Weed and Plant ID:**
*Prunus sargentii* (Sergeant cherry tree)
*Conza canadensis* (Marestail)

**Other:**
Suspected squirrel damage (dropping clusters of leaves and twigs from healthy trees)
Frost cracks/damage to birch
Arborvitaes/boxwood winter damage
*Rhododendron* winter damage
Cedar apple rust
Turf spot dethatching/Necrotic ring spot/summer patch
Middlesex County (submitted by Gail Reynolds)

Insects and Arthropods on Plants
Aphids on spruce
Pine bark adelgid on pine
Gypsy moth caterpillars on oak
Cherry curculio on cherry
Hydrangea leaffier on Hydrangea arborescens
EAB on ash (via blanding)
White prunicola scale on lilac & cherry laurel
Bronze birch borer on Betula pendula
Dusky birch sawfly larvae on river birch (pictured below by Toni Leland)

Insects and Arthropods (other)
Brown marmorated stink bug
Ground beetle
Beetle from family Tenebrionidae
Fall webworm moth
Lily leaf beetle
Firefly (Lucidota atra)

Plant diseases
Fungal growth on container lettuce
Brown rot of Prunus
Grape anthracnose
Cryptococcus mamercans on dogwood
Cercospora leaf spot on mountain laurel

Plant and weed id
Lazula sp. in lawn
Dodecatheon media
Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica)
Euonymus alatus
Common Waterweed (Elodea canadensis)
Flatleaf pondweed (Potomogeton sp.)
Alder (Alnus sp.)
White wood aster (Eurybia divaricata)
Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica)
Smooth bedstraw (Gallium molugo)
Yellow rocket (Barbarea vulgaris)
Viola saggitata
Hedge bindweed (Calystegia sepium)
Star of Bethlehem (Ornithogalum umbellatum)
Equisetum
Fig buttercup (Ficaria verna)
Mugwort (Artemesia vulgaris)
Pin cherry (Prunus pennsylvanica)
Hairy bittercress (Cardamine hirsuta)
Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata)
Catchweed bedstraw (Galium aparine)
Pussytoes (Antenaria sp.)
Euonymous fortunei

Cultural
Deer browse of azalea twig
Cucumber seedlings not hardened off
Burl on cherry tree
Lichens on cherry, white pine, dogwood
Boxwood winter damage
Overwatering of lettuce
Decline of conifers in shade
Artillery fungus on house

New Haven County (submitted by Jude Hsiang)

Arthropods on Plants:
Unknown borer damage to Picea pungens
Delia platura/seed corn maggot on asparagus
Phylloxera caryaeaulis/hickory stem gall aphid on Carya

Arthropods, other:
Xestobium rufovillosum/deathwatch beetle

Plant Disease:
Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae/cedar apple rust gall on Juniperus
Alfalfa mosaic virus (AMV) on pachysandra
Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. spinaciae/spinach wilt on spinach (suspected)
Needlecast on Picea pungens

Coniothyrium ilicinum/on Ilex aquifernyi ‘Dragon Lady’

Plant ID:
Lamium amplexicaule/henbit
Tussilago farfara/coltsfoot

Sassafras albidum/sassafras
Fagus grandifolia/American beech
Ranunculus abortivus/kidney leaf buttercup
Allium canadense/wild onion
Elaegnum umbellata
Glechoma hederacea /ground ivy
Oxalis triangularis/purple oxalis
Avena fatua/wild oats
Poa trivialis/roughstalk bluegrass

Cultural/abiotic problems:
Herbicide damage on ‘Aloha’ rose— inconclusive, client will investigate

Other:
5/15 Tornado likely caused marked decrease in contacts in the MG office
New London County (no report)
Tolland County (no report)
Windham County (no report)
**Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford** (no report)