

## UConn Diagnostic Summary for May 2018

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**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/2016\\_white\\_pine\\_update.pdf](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/content-files/alerts-messages/2016_white_pine_update.pdf)
  - [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-and-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/>

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**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>



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/>



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

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### 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)  
Cottony camellia scale on holly

#### **Arthropods - other**

Winged termite  
Wood louse

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

#### **Plant Diseases**

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 phlox  
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  
Phyllosticta leaf spot of *Prunus cerasifera*, Schip laurel  
Frogeye leaf spot of apple  
Bacterial soft rot of kale

Anthrachnose on Schip laurel  
Black spot on rose stem  
Tomato spotted wilt virus on Gaillardia  
Botryosphaeria dieback on Rhododendron  
Volutella blight on boxwood

**Cultural Problems**

Greenhouse tomato deformity – undetermined cause  
Winter injury on cherry laurel

**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 *Arborvitae*  
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  
*Arborvitae*/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 leaf-tier 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**

*Luzula* sp. in lawn  
*Dodecatheon media*  
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)  
*Euonymus alatus*  
Common Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)  
Flatleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton* 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 (*Artemisia vulgaris*)  
Pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*)  
Hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*)  
Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)  
Catchweed bedstraw (*Galium aparine*)  
Pussytoes (*Antennaria* sp.)  
*Euonymus 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 caryaecaulis*/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 aquipernyi* 'Dragon Lady'

### **Plant ID:**

*Lamium amplexicaule*/henbit  
*Tussilago farfara*/coltsfoot

*Sassafras albidum*/sassafras

*Fagus grandifolia*/American beech

*Ranunculus abortivus*/kidney leaf buttercup

*Alium canadense*/wild onion

*Elaeagnus umbellata*

*Glechoma hederacea* /ground ivy

*Oxalis triangularis* /burgundy 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)