

UConn Diagnostic Summary for May 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Laboratory Not for publication or reproduction without permission of the author. June 8, 2018.

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/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/>

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

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)
 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)