



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

# HOME, YARD & GARDEN PEST

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign

NEWSLETTER

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## Last Issue for 1999

This is the last issue of *Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter* for 1999. You have probably already received a brochure for subscribing for the year 2000. We are reducing the number of issues from 22 to 20 next year, which will mean biweekly issues beginning in late July rather than mid-August. Pest problems are relatively insignificant at that time of year and, because we'll be publishing fewer issues, we won't have to raise the subscription price. Long-term subscribers will remember that the newsletter published 20 issues for several years. Before that, there were only 18 issues per year. We believe that we will be able to provide up-to-date pest information with 20 issues.

I welcome any comments about the newsletter, and I appreciate those that I receive during winter meetings. Send any comments to Phil Nixon, University of Illinois, 1103 W. Dorner Dr., Urbana, IL 61801. My phone number is (217) 333-6650, and my fax number is (217) 244-1507. My e-mail address is [nixonp@mail.aces.uiuc.edu](mailto:nixonp@mail.aces.uiuc.edu). Thanks for your support. *(Phil Nixon)*

## INSECTS

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### Asian Longhorned Beetle Update

The Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is a native of China, where it feeds on many different types of hardwood trees. The beetle feeds on maples (*Acer* spp.), including boxelder, sugar, silver, red, and Norway maples. Additional hosts are horsechestnut, black locust, and green ash trees, as well as elms, birches, willows, and poplars. The beetle was first reported in the Ravenswood area of Chicago in July 1998. It arrived in wooden crating material on a ship delivering goods from China.

The adult Asian longhorned beetle is approximately 3/4 inch to 1-1/4 inches long. Its black body is covered with about 40 white spots, predominantly on its

abdomen. Its long antennae are 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 times its body length with black and white rings on each segment. Its feet have a blue tinge.

The female chews holes in the bark of trees to lay eggs. Each female is capable of laying from 30 to 70 of them. After she has laid the eggs, she covers them with bark, and plant sap may flow from these wounds. The eggs hatch into white, wormlike larvae that bore into tree trunks and branches. Larval tunneling can girdle tree stems and branches. Later, beetles chew their way out, leaving exit holes about 1/2 inch in diameter. Adult beetles are active from May to October, but they can be found earlier in spring or later in fall if temperatures are warm. During the rest of the year, they are located deep within infested trees. There is probably only one generation per year, and they have no natural enemies in the United States.

Four metropolitan areas of Chicago—Ravenswood, Addison, Summit, and Kilbourn Park—have been designated as quarantine zones. The quarantined area covers 14 square miles. In early November, egg-laying sites were detected on American elms in the Cook County Forest Preserve near Rosemont.

Currently, the only method of controlling the Asian longhorned beetle is removing and destroying infested trees. As of November 10, a total of 1,222 trees had been removed from the quarantined zones, and 1,112 trees had been replanted. Replanting began on April 1, and replacement trees include oak, honeylocust, Kentucky coffeetree, hackberry, linden, catalpa, and ginkgo.

The ground surveys that have been used to detect beetle-infested trees have proved inadequate because many of the egg-laying and emergence holes occur on the upper side of branches. As a result, tree climbers with bucket trucks have been utilized to supplement the ground surveys. Surveys will be conducted from November through December 1999 and March through May 2000.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has established a hotline for homeowners to call if they are concerned about the Asian longhorned beetle. The number is 1-800-641-3934. For information on this unwanted immigrant, consult the following website:

<http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/asianbeetle/beetle.htm>.  
(Raymond Cloyd and Charles Helm)

## PLANT DISEASES

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### Chemical Options for Treating Phytophthora Root and Stem Rot of Rhododendron

Over the summer, the Plant Clinic received a number of samples and questions about this fungal disease. Refer to issue No. 11 of this newsletter for details about the disease and the pathogen. *Report on Plant Disease* No. 664 is also a good reference. The fungus is a water mold, and water is required to infect plants. Problems occur in wet or poorly drained areas, and especially on clay sites. Logically, one of the most essential management tools for rhododendron disease control is to improve drainage within the soil as well as away from the site. A well-drained planting site in a clay soil with no provision for water flow away from the plant will likely result in problems with *Phytophthora* root rot.

We try to emphasize site improvement for disease control, but fungicides are often necessary to stop the spread of *Phytophthora*. The *Commercial Landscape & Turfgrass Pest Management Handbook* lists several fungicides registered for use on rhododendron, including Aliette T/O (active ingredient fosetyl-aluminum) by Terra, Banol (propamocarb-hydrochloride) by AgrEvo, Chipco Aliette (fosetyl-aluminum) by Rohm & Haas, Prodigy (fosetyl-aluminum) by Lesco, Pythium Control (metalaxyl) by Scotts, Subdue (mefenoxam) by Novartis, and Terrazole (etridiazole) by Uniroyal.

The *Illinois Homeowners' Guide to Pest Management* states that there are no fungicide options available to the homeowner. Why is nothing listed in the manual? These chemicals are not restricted-use products, and they could be used by homeowners. But they are packaged in quart-sized—or even larger—containers that would last the average homeowner a lifetime. The cost for such containers is usually prohibitive for homeowners. Because these products are not usually on the shelf in retail outlets, availability is also a problem.

The bottom line for managing rhododendron disease is that you must improve soil drainage, remove badly infected plants, and use fungicides if they are available. Look in your local retail outlets for

the products listed. You might also ask a reputable lawn-care company in your area if they could apply one of these products. You will have to check the label for timing and repeat applications. We always suggest that poorly drained areas be renovated. Badly infected plants serve as an inoculum source for healthy plants, so consider removing them. Horticulture fact sheet LH 6-82 discusses amending landscape soils with sand, and other products can also be used to provide a well-drained medium. Again, make certain the well-drained soil drains away from the plants.  
(Nancy Pataky)

### Peach Leaf Curl and Oak Blisters Problems in 1999?

One of the most noticeable diseases on peach and oak trees is caused by fungi in the *Taphrina* genus. We talked about these fungi early in the season in issue No. 4. Leaves on affected plants become blistered, malformed, thickened, and often reddish in color. Affected leaves drop from the trees, giving the tree a very thin canopy, even though surrounding trees look healthy. The disease is particularly damaging to peach fruit. A simple control measure is to spray a fungicide on trees that have this problem. The spray must be applied when the tree is dormant—before the problem occurs. There is no rescue treatment during the growing season. The idea is to kill the fungus as it overwinters on the twigs and bud scales. Thorough coverage is essential.

This year, several homeowners complained that sprays had not prevented this disease. I have not found any information indicating that the fungicides are failing in other locations or that the fungus has developed resistance to the fungicides. It is likely that the chemicals used did not adequately cover the entire tree or that they were not agitated during the spray process. Some chemical options registered for peach leaf curl include Spectro by Cleary, bordeaux mix, copper fungicides, lime-sulfur, and sulfur. Many of these chemicals, especially bordeaux, are difficult to keep mixed, and sprayers often become clogged with chemicals. Cool temperatures only increase mixing problems. Because trees should be sprayed only when they are dormant (when they have dropped leaves and are no longer actively growing), we suggest spraying now. This may help if you forget to spray in February or early March before buds swell and begin to grow.  
(Nancy Pataky)

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Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter is prepared by Extension specialists from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Natural History Survey. Information for this newsletter is gathered with the help of staff members, Extension field staff, and others. Karel Jacobs and Donna Danielson of The Morton Arboretum also provide information and articles.

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