



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

# HOME, YARD & GARDEN PEST NEWSLETTER

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

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## Last Issue of the Year

This is the 20th and last issue of the *Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter* for 2004. Notice that much of the newsletter consists of an index of articles published this year. For those who file paper copies, this should be useful in locating articles. For Internet readers, the search engine on the Web site accesses several previous years of issues, as well as the current year.

We anticipate publishing this newsletter again next year, with issues starting in April. It is likely that Internet access to the newsletter next year will require a password obtained by paying an annual fee. At this time, this fee is expected to be in the \$10 to \$15 range for a year's access. Paper subscriptions may see a small increase to cover any increased paper, publication, and mailing costs.

Thank you for your interest and support during the past year. (*Phil Nixon*)

## 2005 Handbook

The *2005 Illinois Commercial Landscape and Turfgrass Pest Management Handbook* is currently in press. We anticipate its availability in late December 2004. Only a paper copy will be available this year, and its price will be \$15 per copy. To obtain a copy, contact your local Extension office or call (217)333-2007 or (800)345-6087. Copies will also be on sale at the Commercial Pesticide Training and Certification Clinics held around the state. (*Phil Nixon*)

## PLANT DISEASES

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### Another New Rust for the United States

The recent news in the United States has headlined the occurrence of soybean rust, a disease new to the United States on soybeans. The horticulture industry has a rust concern of its own. Chrysanthemum white rust (CWR), caused by *Puccinia horiana*, is a pest (fungus) of quarantine significance in the United States. The importation of CWR host plants is prohibited from infested countries and regions because of the potential of transporting this organism with the host plants.

This disease is not yet established in the United States. It is indigenous to Japan and is now established in China, Europe, Africa, Australia, Central America, South America, and the Far East. Although the disease is not established in this country, it has been found in sporadic outbursts and has the potential to be very damaging to U.S. commercial horticulture and floriculture industries. According to the national management plan, CWR may cause complete loss of glasshouse chrysanthemum crops. When CWR has been detected in the United States, state and federal regulatory bodies have worked toward immediate eradication of the disease. The national management plan for chrysanthemum white rust can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/cwr/cwrplan.pdf>.

In September 2004, USDA APHIS PPQ confirmed the presence of chrysanthemum white rust in nurseries and even some residences in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New York. For details on these findings and regulatory reactions, visit the national phytosanitary alert system of the North American Plant Protection Organization at <http://www.pestalert.org/notifications.cfm?region=United%20States#124>. In that document, it states that "When CWR is found in the United States, the States and PPQ cooperate to eradicate it... Disposal of infected plants and weekly fungicide sprays of myclobutanil are required to manage this disease as outlined in the CWR Management Plan for Exclusion and Eradication."

With recent taxonomic changes, most plants we knew as chrysanthemums are no longer in the *Chrysanthemum* genus. In fact, the three species that remain in the *Chrysanthemum* genus are not susceptible to this rust. Susceptible plants include *Dendranthema* species (florist's mum, florist chrysanthemum, cultivated mum), *Nipponanthemum* species (Nippon Daisy, Nippon-chrysanthemum), *Leucanthemella* species (high daisy, giant-daisy), and *Ajania pacifica*. Apparently resistant species include annual chrysanthemum, crown chrysanthemum, pyrethrum, marguerite daisy, ox-eye daisy, and corn marigold. The rust fungus is an obligate parasite. It grows and reproduces only on susceptible plants. Still, the teleospore stage of this fungus can survive up to 8 weeks on detached leaves at 50% or less relative humidity.

Symptoms of CWR include small white to yellow spots up to 4 to 5mm wide on the upper leaf surface. The spots may become dimpled and brown with time. Pustules of the rust form on the underside of the leaf, under these spots. The pustules are at first a buff to pink color but turn white with age, thus the name white rust. The plants may be symptomless in hot, dry weather. Cool, wet conditions promote symptoms. Spore spread is by splashing water or by wind in wet conditions. Symptoms usually develop from 5 to 14 days following infection. Often the disease is brought into a clean greenhouse on infected cuttings. Because infected cuttings may appear normal, buy healthy cuttings and inspect them regularly, especially in cool, wet conditions. A British Columbia fact sheet on CWR with images of the disease can be found at <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/cwrust.htm>.

Additional updates about this disease will be tracked in next season's *Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter*. Special alerts will be sent to Extension offices as the need arises. Should you find this disease or suspect samples, contact Nancy Pataky of the University of Illinois Plant Clinic at (217)333-8375. (Nancy Pataky)

### Sudden Oak Death (*P. ramorum*) Training

As you may have heard, several nurseries on the West Coast unknowingly shipped *Phytophthora ramorum*-infected plants across the country earlier this year. This funguslike pathogen causes a destructive disease called "sudden oak death" (SOD), which is also known as "ramorum blight" or "ramorum dieback." To date, state and national survey efforts have detected SOD in 21 states. Thus far, SOD has \*NOT\* been detected in Illinois nor in any bordering state. Additional information about SOD can be obtained by reading issue no. 16 (September 1, 2004; <http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/cespubs/hyg/html/200416b.html>) of this newsletter.

In response to the nature and spread of this disease, the Illinois SOD Task Force will be offering a SOD detection and response training program for Illinois Master Gardeners, nurserymen, arborists, and landscape professionals. The program is scheduled for March 7, 2005, and will be offered simultaneously at multiple locations throughout Illinois from 9 to 11 a.m. Teleconference and PowerPoint presentations will be used to detail SOD hosts, symptoms, and epidemiology, as well as the detection and response protocol for Illinois. Brief updates about several invasive pests of trees will also be provided.

Additional information about this program, as well as training sites, will be published on the Illinois Master Gardener Web site (<http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/>) in January 2005. (Bruce Paulsrud)

## INSECTS

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### White Grubs

An overview of the white grub situation in Illinois shows that, in general, white grubs were not a major problem in turf this year. Most of the white grub populations that were large enough to be damaging were spotty, with an occasional turf area having severe damage. In general, the northwestern portion of the state from Peoria through Monmouth, Galesburg, and the Quad Cities had more white grub problems than other areas of the state. Fairly large areas of white grub infestations were also noted in Will, Kankakee, and southern Cook counties. Usually, at least 10 to 12 grubs per square foot are necessary to cause turf injury.

In many areas, the grub population was low, but treatment was still needed to control damage caused by raccoons, skunks, and birds feeding on the grubs. Raccoons peel up 4- to 8-inch pieces of turf to feed on the grubs in the root zone. Skunks usually dig up the sod in 3-inch-diameter holes, with a single skunk making about 100 of these holes in one night. Insectivorous birds, such as starlings, cowbirds, grackles, robins, and cuckoos, work their beaks through the sod searching for individual grubs. When they remove their beak and grub, they typically tear out a 1/2- to 1-inch-diameter divot. Hundreds of these small, brown divots in a small area are very obvious. Where the turf is thin and the grubs are near the surface, robins, in particular, chicken-scratch larger areas through the turf. These animals typically go after relatively small grub numbers in the range of three or more grubs per square foot.

White grubs can still be treated as long as they remain in the root zone. Once the temperature in this zone drops below 60°F, Japanese beetle grubs tunnel deeper into the soil. Annual white grubs (also known as southern and northern masked chafers) and true white grubs (also known as May beetles) tunnel deeper in the soil when the root zone temperature drops below 50°F. In most years, only southern Illinois has treatable grubs until Thanksgiving; but with the mild temperatures this fall, more northern areas may see grub damage, particularly in areas where fall rainfall has been slight.

Trichlorfon, sold as Dylox, is typically the insecticide of choice for late grub treatments, but imidacloprid (sold as Merit), halofenozide (sold as Mach 2), and Hb nematodes should also be effective at this time of year. Make sure that the grubs are in the root zone before treatment. If they have already descended deeper into the soil, treatment is unlikely to be effective. (*Phil Nixon*)

### It Is Important To Have “Bug” References

What happens when you encounter a plant-feeding insect or mite that you cannot identify—using your memory? As you know, it is important to properly identify a given insect or mite pest to select the appropriate insecticide or miticide. If you are “stumped,” you will likely send the sample to a diagnostic clinic, your county Extension office, or an Extension entomologist, or you will try to find a photograph in a reference that best matches your particular insect or mite. It is important to have a number of references that contain photographs of a wide variety of plant-feeding insects and mites so you can make general comparisons. Following are references that not only contain quality photographs of insects and mites but also provide information on the biology and lifecycle of insects and mites, management strategies, insecticide/miticide recommendations, and ecological concepts related to pest management. Most of these references are easily accessible from designated Web addresses.

1. Johnson, W. T., and H. H. Lyon. 1988. *Insects that feed on trees and shrubs*. Second edition. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 556 pgs. ISBN no. 0-8014-2108-X
2. *Plant health care for woody ornamentals. A professional's guide to preventing and managing environmental stresses and pests*. 1997. International Society of Arboriculture, Savoy, Illinois. Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL. 223 pgs. ISBN no. 1-883097-17-7
3. *Pests of landscape trees and shrubs. An integrated pest management guide*. 1994. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Publication 3359. 327 pgs.

4. Cranshaw, W. 2004. *Garden insects of North America*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 656 pgs. ISBN no. 0-691-09561-2
5. *Integrated pest management of Midwest landscapes*. Cooperative Project of NCR 193, North Central Committee on Landscape IPM, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station SB-07645, Minneapolis, MN. 315 pgs.
6. Cloyd, R. A., P. L. Nixon, and N. R. Pataky. 2004. *IPM for gardeners: A guide to integrated pest management*. Timber Press, Portland, OR. 204 pgs. ISBN no. 0-88192-647-7
7. Alford, D. V. 1991. *A colour atlas of pests of ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers*. Wolfe Publishing Ltd, Barcelona, Spain. 448 pgs. ISBN no. 0-7234-1643-5 (addresses primarily European insects, but many of them occur in the United States as well)  
(*Raymond A. Cloyd*)

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