

Number 17 - September 24, 2010

Last Biweekly Issue

This is the last of the Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter issues published every other week for 2010. There is one issue remaining to be published this year. It is scheduled for publication on October 22, 2010. That issue will contain an index to this year's articles.

--*Phil Nixon*

Emerald Ash Borer Update

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Champaign County at Prairie Pine Campgrounds in Rantoul and in Grundy County at the Three Rivers Rest Area on I-80 in Morris. The infestations were discovered from specimens collected by EAB purple sticky traps. Both specimens were submitted to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which confirmed them as EAB. In June, Illinois Department of Agriculture personnel found specimens of EAB at Rock Cut State Park in Loves Park, which is in Winnebago County.

Grundy and Winnebago Counties are already under the Illinois Department of Agriculture quarantine, which includes all or parts of 23 counties in the northern and central parts of Illinois. Champaign County is not currently in the quarantine, so the quarantine boundaries will need to be adjusted. The

quarantine is intended to prevent the accidental spread of the beetle. It prohibits the intrastate movement of potentially-contaminated wood products, including ash trees, limbs and branches and all types of firewood. The boundary adjustment will not be made until all purple traps have been harvested and analyzed.

University of Illinois Extension and Illinois Department of Agriculture personnel are currently conducting a series of homeowner education programs on EAB. The brochure with dates and locations can be found at: <http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/data/201008263813.pdf>. There will also be a series of educational programs on EAB for Illinois Department of Natural Resources this fall.--*Phil Nixon, part modified from IDA news releases*

Magnolia Scale

Magnolia scale is heavy this year in northern and central Illinois. It is susceptible to control from now into spring. It attacks star magnolia, *Magnolia stellata*; cucumbertree magnolia, *M. acuminata*; saucer magnolia, *M. soulangiana*; and lily magnolia, *M. quinquepeta*.

Magnolia scale females can be very large for scales, about 1/2 inch in diameter. They range from yellowish to brownish, from

oval to a roundish blob. Magnolia scale produces large amounts of honeydew, resulting in shiny, sticky leaves, as well as sticky sidewalks and cars underneath infested trees. Tree sap is very low in nitrogen, so soft scales consume great quantities of it, separate out much of the water and nitrogen, and excrete most of the remainder as the concentrated sap, or light syrup, called honeydew.

Mature females at this time of year produce living young. These first-stage nymphs, or crawlers, are oval and gray, with a reddish brown ridge running down the back. Each crawler has two white, waxy spots, one on each side. Crawlers mass on the undersides of 1- and 2-year-old twigs for the winter. From the time that they emerge from the female until they molt to the second nymphal instar in late April or early May, they are vulnerable to insecticide sprays.

In early June, they molt again to the third-instar nymphal stage and are deep purple. Heavily infested twigs and branches appear purple and rough from the high scale numbers. The nymphs then produce white, powdery wax that covers their bodies. As they mature to adults, the white wax wears away, being heaviest on the edges of the scale. There is one generation per year.

An insecticidal spray of acephate (Orthene), insecticidal soap, or summer spray oil at this time controls the crawlers. The same sprays at bud break in the spring are also effective. With the insecticidal soap and summer spray oil, be sure to get good coverage, particularly on the twig undersides, where the crawlers will be most numerous. As these are contact insecticides, the insects not hit directly

with the soap or oil spray will probably survive; so thorough coverage is essential.--*Phil Nixon*

Whiteflies

Whitefly adults are very common on many outdoor different plants. At this time of year, they are unlikely to cause serious damage to temperate plants. The foliage is hardened off and deciduous plants are getting close to leaf drop anyway. Tropical plants, either still outdoors or in greenhouses, are susceptible to damage due to the constant growth characteristics of tropical plants. Whiteflies were addressed at length in Issue 15 of this newsletter published on August 27, 2010. That article can be accessed at <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/pdf/hygpest201015.pdf>.--*Phil Nixon*

White Grubs and May Beetles

White grubs are still susceptible to treatment until the soil temperature in the turf root zone drops below 60 degrees F. That is the temperature at which Japanese beetle grubs descend deeper into the soil for the winter. Masked chafer grubs descend in the soil when the root zone temperature drops below 50 degrees F. Once they tunnel deeper, white grubs are usually below the level where sufficient insecticide will be present to provide control. To obtain quick control, trichlorfon (Dylox) is usually the insecticide of choice, typically providing control in 3 days.

Fall tree planting and other digging activity commonly exposes May beetles, the adult stage of true white grubs, also

called 3-year white grubs. Adults of the most common species emerge underground in late summer and early fall, remaining below ground until the following spring. They are stocky, one-

inch long beetles, and either chocolate brown or reddish-brown. These adult beetles are unlikely to cause serious feeding damage, so control efforts are not warranted.--*Phil Nixon*