

Number 18 - October 22, 2010

Last Issue for 2010

This is the eighteenth and last issue of the Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter for 2010. At this point, we are planning on continuing this newsletter with the first issue being published in April 2011. However, there are some uncertainties about its makeup and delivery. There may be better ways to provide needed information than the current one, perhaps using twitter and blogs. Whatever is decided will be announced on the website and to email subscribers.--*Phil Nixon*

Periodical Cicada

We are expecting an emergence of periodical cicada throughout much of the southern half of Illinois in May 2011. These insects cut slits in tree and shrub twigs, branches, and trunks that are less than one and one-half inches in diameter. This damage frequently causes flagging, the leaves beyond the injury die and turn brown, and weakens the stems enough to make them susceptible to snapping off during windy conditions. For this reason, we recommend against planting small diameter trees in the fall and spring preceding a major periodical cicada emergence.

Brown, 1-inch-long nymphs emerge from the soil in late May, climb up the

trunks of trees and other vertical objects, and grab onto the bark; adults emerge from a split made along the back. Adults harden and darken into 1-1/2-inch-long black insects with red eyes. They have clear wings with orange veins. Males sing to attract females, filling the air with a wonderful trill or obnoxious noise, depending on your attitude.

After mating, the female cicadas use their ovipositor, or egg-laying device, to slice several inch-long crevices in twigs and branches to lay their eggs. They prefer twigs and branches from about 1/4 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter. The leaves past this damage typically wilt and die, and the twigs and branches commonly snap off in the wind. Small transplanted trees, particularly fruit trees, commonly have a trunk diameter small enough that egg slits are made in the trunk, resulting in the tree snapping off.

Insecticide applications kill huge numbers of visiting cicadas, but analysis of egg-slit trunk damage shows little difference between treated and untreated research plots. The only way to protect small trees from serious damage in a heavy emergence area is to protect the trunk with screening or other material. This is expensive in materials and labor. It is much better to delay small-tree planting for a year or install larger stock, preferably those

with a trunk diameter of at least 2-1/2 inches.

Emergence of periodical cicadas is not heavy in many areas, so tree planting can continue in those areas. These areas are very predictable. The memories of people living in particular areas during the 1998 emergence are very useful. Similarly, local newspaper accounts can be useful.

Some thought about periodical cicadas and their needs can also help. Realize that these insects require a steady supply of sap-supplying tree and shrub roots for 13 years. Housing developments in which all trees and shrubs were removed prior to building will have few cicadas because the nymphs died when the trees were removed. Similarly, housing developments in areas that were originally farm fields or prairie will have few cicadas due to the lack of trees. The practice of bulldozing all trees off of a housing development site has been common only since the 1960s, so older housing developments probably will have large numbers of cicadas.--*Phil Nixon*

Index 2010

Following is an index to the pests and other topics addressed in the 2010 issues of the Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter. Under each item, the issue number is followed by the page number where each topic starts.

General

Commercial Pest Management Handbook 1.1
Flower health 2.6

International Herb Conference 9.1
Invasive pests 3.6, 5.6, 10.5, 14.3
Malcolm C. Shurtleff 10.1
Nancy R. Pataky 13.4
National Plant Diagnostic Network 6.2
NPDES permits 7.1, 8.5, 9.1
Phenology 2.1
Plant Clinic 1.3, 15.3
Rabbits 14.1
Yellow-bellied sapsucker 16.2

Insects

Aphids 5,1
Asian longhorned beetle 13.5
Asiatic garden beetle 13.5
Bagworm 8.3, 13.1
Black vine weevil 3.1
Boxwood psyllid 6.1
Bronze birch borer 3.1
Brown marmorated stink bug 12.6
Buffalo Gnats 2.3
Celery leaf-tier 14.1
Cicada killer 12.2
Cottony maple scale 8.1, 8.2
Earwig 8:3
Eastern tent caterpillar 1.3
Emerald ash borer 1.2, 3.4, 6.3, 7.2, 17.1
Euonymous caterpillar 3.1
Euonymus scale 3.3
European elm flea weevil 7.3
European pine sawfly 1.3
European pine shoot moth 3.1
Flatheaded appletree borer 4.1
Fourlined plant bug 5.3
Galls 1.2, 2.2
Grass sawfly 8.4
Gypsy moth 6.1 7.6
Hawthorn mealybug 6.2
Honey bees 3.6
Japanese beetle 9.2,10.2, 13.2
Magnolia scale 10.2, 17.1
Maple bladder gall 3.2
Maple erineum 3.2
Maple spindle gall 3.2
May beetles 17.2
Mimosa webworm 4.2

Oystershell scale 3.3
Pearleaf blister mite 3.2
Periodical cicada 18.1
Pine needle scale 3.3
Pine spittlebug 10.2
Redheaded pine sawfly 15.2
Rose slug 2.2
Roundheaded appletree borer 4.1
Sod webworms 12.1, 14.1
Spider webs 5.2
Spring insect occurrence 9.1
Twicestabbed lady beetle 8.2
Velvet ant 12.2
Viburnum crown borer 3.1
Viburnum leaf beetle 9.6
Walnut twig beetle 16.2
Whiteflies 15.1, 17.2
White grubs 11.1, 12.1, 14.2, 15.3, 17.2
White pine sawfly 15.2
Wild cherry pouch gall 3.2
Winged euonymus scale 3.3
Woolly apple aphid 3.1
Woolly hemlock adelgid 8.5
Zimmerman pine moth 13.2

Diseases

Anthracnose 3.5, 4.3, 6.4
Armillaria root rot 7.6
Bacterial blight 4.4, 11.5
Bacterial leaf spot 5.4
Bacterial leaf scorch 13.3
Botryosphaeria dieback 7.6
Boxwood decline 1.5
Cherry leaf spot 12.3
Chlorosis 4.3
Crabapple scab 2.4, 4.3
Crown gall 4.5
Cryptodiaporthe canker 7.4
Cytospora canker 11.4
Daylily leaf streak 4.3
Diplodia tip blight 11.3
Dothistroma blight 11.3
Downy mildew 5.3
Dutch elm disease 9.3
Elm yellows 9:3
Fire blight 7.3

Foliar nematode 12.4
Fungal leaf spot 5.4
Hosta petiole blight 13.3
Mushrooms 9.5
Oak wilt 10.4
Peony powdery mildew 12.3
Phytophthora root rot 7.5
Pine wilt 10.4, 11.3
Powdery mildew 4.4
Pythium root rot 10.3
Rhizosphaera needle cast 11.4
Raspberry orange rust 6.3
Sclerotium blight 13.3
Slime molds 9.4
Stress 3.5
Sudden oak death 1.4
Thousand cankers disease 16.1
Tree decline 2.5
Verticillium wilt 3.4, 4.5
Wetwood 9.5
White pine decline 2.4

Weeds

Algae 9.5
Autumn olive 12.5
Brazilian elodea 10.7
Common teasel 11.6, 12.5
Giant hogweed 8.5
Hydrilla 10.7
Invasive weeds 5.5, 7.7
Poison hemlock 12.5
Purple loosestrife 9.7
Saltcedar 10.7
Spotted knapweed 12.5
Tree-of-heaven 12.5