

Number 17 – September 24, 2012

Last Biweekly Issue

This is the last of the every other week issues of this year's Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter. The next issue will be the last one for this year and will be available around October 22, 2012. The last issue will contain the index to topics addressed during this year's issues. (*Phil Nixon*)

Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Plan to Attend the (1st Annual) Illinois First Detector Tree Pest Training Program

10. This program was planned by a special committee: Stephanie Porter, U of I Plant Clinic Diagnostician and Outreach Coordinator, Kelly Estes, U of I Agricultural Pest Survey Coordinator, Travis Cleveland, U of I Extension Specialist in PSEP, Jay Hayek, U of I Extension Specialist in Forestry, David Shiley, U of I Extension Educator, Andi Dierich, Morton Arboretum Forest Pest Outreach & Survey Project, Emily Hanson, SIU Urban and Community Forester, and Jean Burrige, U of I Plant Clinic Staff and Certified Arborist.

9. Our Objective: To establish a first detector training program in Illinois focusing on tree pests. These courses will provide in depth training sessions on current and emerging pathogens and insects affecting Illinois trees.

8. Projected Outcome:

- a. Improve first detector training and invasive species awareness
- b. Reduce potential risks from pathogens and pests
- c. Increase rapid and affordable plant diagnostic support to local, state, and national agriculture and green industry programs and to end-users

7. The focus of the program in 2013 will be Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Thousand Canker Disease (TCD), and Invasive Plant Species (specific to area of training)! Activities will also be held to aid in the identification of Ash, Walnut, and Invasive Species.

Course Elements for EAB, TCD, and Invasive Plant Species:

- Identification /detection
- Life cycle/biology
- Hosts
- Sampling
- Management
- Commonly confused look-a-likes
- Regulation

6. This Illinois First Detector Tree Program will be held at five locations across Illinois:

- *Springfield, U of I Extension conference room, February 12th, 2013, (9 am – 3pm)*
- *Quad Cities, Black Hawk Historical Site, Facilities Rental, February 26th, 2013, (9 am – 3pm)*

- *Mt. Vernon, U of I Extension conference room, March 7th, 2013, (9 am – 3pm)*
- *Collinsville, U of I Extension conference room, March 14th, 2013, (9 am – 3pm)*
- *Champaign, U of I Extension conference room, March 21st, 2013, (9 am – 3pm)*

5. A low Registration cost of \$25 per person, with lunch provided! This fee will help cover the program costs as well as provide funding to continue this program on an annual basis! Registration is not open at this time, but will be held at the host U of I Extension office.

4. Target Audience: Certified Arborists, Tree Care Professionals, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Forestry and Natural Resource Professionals, Conservationists, and many more!) *CEU's will be available!*

3. Additional online training modules will be available to program participants prior to training. These will help to cover topics that will not be covered during the one day program. Participants can complete these on their own time, if they choose.

2. Each participant will receive a binder full of EAB, TCD, and Invasive Plant information! A special feature will be key tree drawings (provided by Jean Burrige) to aid in the identification of Ash, Walnut, and Invasive Plant Species!

1. YOU WILL BECOME A CERTIFIED ILLINOIS FIRST DETECTOR!

(Stephanie Porter)

IPM Training Modules

Thanks to the Illinois IPM Grant, many University of Illinois Specialists have been busy creating a series of online training modules which cover pertinent pests, weeds, and diseases. Topics will focus on newly emerging, exotic, or invasive pests as well as pests which have generated significant questions or concerns. Each module will include information on how to identify the pest as well as current management options—stressing those methods which offer the best long term control with minimal environmental impact.

The training modules can be accessed at the following link:

<http://mg.cropsci.illinois.edu/>

You will need to create a log in and password to have access to the following training modules:

- Bacterial Leaf Scorch
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
- Sudden Oak Death (not found in Illinois)
- Thousand Canker Disease (not found in Illinois)
- Illinois Spruce Problems

Look for future topics such as:

- Downy mildew of impatiens
- Emerald ash borer
- Boxwood blight

Once you choose a training module topic, you will be introduced to the pest or disease and learn its distribution/history, host plant(s), pathogen or vector, symptoms, look-a-likes, diagnosis, management, references, and take a quiz.

Through continued educational efforts, we hope to increase awareness on prudent gardening choices and preferred IPM practices. (*Stephanie Porter*)

Whiteflies

Whiteflies are being found commonly in the landscape, feeding on the leaves of flowers and other herbaceous plants as well as hydrangea, other shrubs, and trees. Generally, late season whiteflies can be ignored, as they are too late to cause serious damage to plant health or even cause obvious aesthetic damage. They are 1/16-inch-long insects with white, powdery wings. They sit on leaf undersides and fly off of infested foliage when disturbed, frequently being numerous enough at this time of year to be obvious. They are sucking insects, whose removal of sap can cause leaf distortion.

Three species of whitefly are common in Illinois. The bandedwinged whitefly adult has two dark bands on each front wing. It is hardy in Illinois, feeding primarily on velvetleaf, also known as buttonweed. This weed is common in agricultural and weedy land areas. From late summer into fall, huge numbers of adults migrate to other plants, even flying in large numbers into greenhouses. Bandedwinged whitefly feed as adults on many plant species but does not reproduce heavily on them. Thus, bandedwinged whiteflies usually do not warrant control. An exception is attacks on flowering maple, *Abutilon*, which is the same genus as velvetleaf.

The other two common species are greenhouse whitefly and silverleaf

whitefly. Silverleaf whitefly used to be known as sweet potato whitefly. They do not have dark bands on their front wings, being totally white. Silverleaf whitefly was locally abundant last spring, so apparently it was able to overwinter during the previous uncommonly mild winter. They are common pests in greenhouses. These whiteflies can build up in numbers through multiple generations through the growing season to be common on plants in late summer and fall. They reproduce on many plants and can increase enough to cause damage.

Damage appears as wrinkled, curled, cupped, or otherwise distorted leaves. Large amounts of honeydew, excreted from the nymphs and adults, make leaves glossy and sticky. Black sooty mold grows on the honeydew and is another clue that an infestation is present. Sooty mold can reduce the amount of light reaching the leaf surface, resulting in reduced photosynthesis.

Whiteflies, along with a few other insects, are thought to be somewhat transitional between incomplete and complete development. They are considered to have incomplete life cycles, but the last nymphal stage is called a pupa.

Whitefly nymphs and pupae appear as oval, clear to light yellow insects on leaf undersides. Legs are not apparent. The pupae and older nymphs are about 1/16 of an inch long, 1 to 2 millimeters. They are most common on the older, lower leaves of the plant. Their small size and transparent qualities make them difficult to see. Adults and their eggs are most common on the younger, upper leaves of the plant.

Control of whiteflies is usually not necessary unless nymphs are present. Even if nymphs are present, there may not be enough to cause damage or the leaves may be too hardened off to show damage. The whiteflies may cause early leaf fall, but it is probably too late to stimulate new leaf production.

If treatment is warranted, thorough coverage with sprays of insecticidal soap, summer spray oil, or pyrethroids should be effective. Apply weekly, two or three times. Imidacloprid (Merit) applied to the soil as a single application is also effective systemically on whiteflies. (Phil Nixon)

Boxelder Bug

Boxelder bugs are common every year, but are very numerous this year. Their numbers are typically much larger in hot, dry years, so their larger numbers this year were expected.

Boxelder bug adults are flat-topped, red and black bugs that are about 1/2 inch long. We have become used to them coming to the sunlit south and western walls of buildings in the fall. Their nymphs are similar in appearance but smaller. Their red abdomen and black wing buds make them different enough in appearance that many people don't recognize them.

Boxelder bugs have two generations per year, with the second generation becoming adult at this time. Boxelder bugs feed primarily as nymphs and adults on seeds of box elder, a native maple. They also feed on the seeds of silver maple and other maples, but apparently not very heavily.

Although boxelder bugs are primarily a household insect of little importance to landscape professionals, they are commonly found in masses on the trunks and at the bases of boxelder and other maples. They are effectively killed on contact with insecticidal soap spray both on tree trunks and outside building walls. Because insecticidal soap has little residual activity, spraying may be needed every other day or even every day. Boxelder bugs are not effectively controlled by insecticide residues. (Phil Nixon)

Spotted Wing Drosophila

Over the summer and especially the last few weeks, detections of spotted wing Drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, and reports of larval damage to fruit have been increasing in Illinois and nearby states including Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Infestations have posed problems in Michigan since 2010. In Illinois, the list of counties where this insect has been collected include Pope, Union, and Marion in the southern part of the state, Champaign, Tazewell, and Adams in the central part of the state, and Ogle County in the north. It likely is present in most if not all of the counties in Illinois.

Spotted wing Drosophila is a destructive pest of thin-skinned fruits because unlike other *Drosophila* species, it lays eggs into ripening fruit before it's ready for harvest. Infested fruits "melt down" from larval feeding in just a few days. Adult flies are tan and 2-3 millimeters long (up to one-eighth inch long), live for up to 2 weeks, and females can lay up to 300 eggs. Development from egg to adult can occur in as little as 8 days,

and 10 or more generations may develop within a season.

It is likely that reports of this insect being found in Illinois will be reported by various mass media outlets. Clientele

will ask landscapers and garden center personnel about this insect. Although it is likely to become a problem in berries, grapes, and tree fruits, it is not a pest of the ornamental landscape. (*Rick Weinzierl, modified by Phil Nixon*)