

Number 17 - October 22, 2013

### **Last Issue for 2013**

This is the seventeenth and last issue of the Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter for 2013. Included is an index of this year's topics. We anticipate resuming publication in April 2014. Thanks for your interest and reports of pest situations that help us be more relevant to your situation. (*Phil Nixon*)

### **New Pest Management Guide in 2014**

A new revision of the Illinois Commercial Landscape and Turfgrass Pest Management Handbook will be available in 2014. We are currently on target for publication in January 2014. The last edition was in 2010, so it will contain new insect pests, diseases, and weeds of trees, shrubs, turf, and flowers. Pesticide recommendations are updated to reflect current commercially available materials.

It will be available for purchase in 2014 at Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Clinics, local Extension offices, and through Pubs Plus at <https://pubsplus.illinois.edu/> it will be available only in paper format as sales fund future editions. (*Phil Nixon*)

### **White Grubs**

The drought of 2012 and reduced irrigation of turf during that time greatly

reduced the emergence of Japanese beetle adults and production of associated grubs this year. Masked chafers are influenced less by dry weather, and their grubs are present, generally in relatively low numbers. I have seen infestations and received reports of infestations at levels of two to four grubs per square foot. This is far below the ten to twelve per square foot that are likely to do enough root feeding to cause turf wilting and dieback. However, it is common for birds, skunks, raccoons, and armadillos to tear up the turf to feed on three to four grubs per square foot. Mammal damage has been reported with as few as one grub per square foot.

Check for grub numbers by cutting through the turf with a heavy knife and pulling back the turf. In moist turf, the grubs will be in the root zone and easily seen. Some may be hanging in the sod, but most will be on the soil surface that is exposed when the sod is pulled back. Till the soil lightly with the knife to determine if additional grubs are present in the upper couple of inches of soil. If the soil is dry, till the soil four to six inches deep to check for grubs. The soil fractures along the grubs' bodies, causing them to pop up to the surface where they are easily seen and counted.

A single skunk will make 100 or so holes in one night looking for grubs. The round holes will be about three inches across and just through the sod.

Raccoons pull back four to twelve inch sheets of sod to expose the grubs. Armadillos will dig several holes several inches deep and several inches across. Armadillos have been found throughout the state, but are most common in the southern third. Birds scratch away the turf and soil to expose grubs. None of these animals replace their divots, making their biological control services in eating the grubs much less important than the turf they destroy in the process.

White grub populations at this time of year can be controlled with an application of trichlorfon (Dylox), chlorantroniliprole (Acelepryn), or *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* nematodes. Each should be watered in soon after application. (Phil Nixon)

### **They're Back ... First Detector Workshops Scheduled for 2014**

[As promised](#), we have news on the upcoming 2014 First Detector Workshops. [Dates have been officially set](#), and plans are taking place to make this second installment of the Illinois First Detector Workshops a success.

Similar to the 2013 workshops, those in 2014 will take place at several locations around the state. The focus of the 2014 workshops will be on current and emerging landscape and nursery pests. Each location will have sessions devoted new oak insects and pathogens and invasive plants. These in depth training sessions will cover material that includes: identification/detection, life cycle/biology, hosts, sampling, management, commonly confused look-a-likes, and more. New this year, a session will also cover the regulation of

some of these pests and address some very interesting questions that were raised last year.

Registration information will soon be available from each Extension host site. The cost of the program will be \$40, with lunch provided. This fee will help cover the program costs as well as provide funding to continue this program on an annual basis. Continuing education credits have been applied for: Illinois Arborists Association, Continuing Forestry Education Credits, Professional Landcare Network, and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop Information</b>
Jan. 14	Illinois Central College in Peoria Contact: Rhonda Ferree ( <a href="mailto:ferreer@illinois.edu">ferreer@illinois.edu</a> ) <b><a href="#">Registration opens December 1</a></b>
Jan. 16	Madison-Monroe-St. Clair Unit Branch Office in Collinsville Contact: Sara Ruth ( <a href="mailto:ruth1@illinois.edu">ruth1@illinois.edu</a> ) <b><a href="#">Registration available soon!</a></b>
Feb. 20	Jackson County Extension Office in Murphysboro Contact: Sonja Lallemand ( <a href="mailto:lalleman@illinois.edu">lalleman@illinois.edu</a> )
Feb. 27	Klehm Arboretum in Rockford Contact: Candace Miller ( <a href="mailto:mille116@illinois.edu">mille116@illinois.edu</a> ) <b><a href="#">Registration opens November 1</a></b>
Mar. 12	Macon County Extension Office in Decatur Contact: Jennifer Nelson ( <a href="mailto:jaschult@illinois.edu">jaschult@illinois.edu</a> ) <b><a href="#">Registration available soon!</a></b>
Mar. 27	Will County Extension Office in Joliet Contact: Richard Hentschel ( <a href="mailto:hentsche@illinois.edu">hentsche@illinois.edu</a> ) <b><a href="#">Registration available soon!</a></b>

We hope you can join us for an informative workshop! (*Kelly Estes, State Survey Coordinator, Illinois Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey Program; Stephanie Porter, Diagnostician, University of Illinois Plant Clinic*)

### **Fall is Officially Here When the Stink Bugs Start to Appear**

Over the past couple of weeks, I've received several reports of [Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs \(BMSB\)](#) being found in or near homes. It's a sure sign that the seasons are changing and these home invaders are searching for their winter vacation spots.

It's during this time of year that we see insects hanging out on the sides of houses, garages, and window sills on sunny days, checking out places to spend the winter. While boxelder bugs and multicolored Asian lady beetles first come to mind, in several areas of the state, BMSB is starting to make its presence known as well. Typically, the adults will begin to move to overwintering locations in September, with peak movement in late September and October. Homeowners may start to see BMSB begin gathering on homes, barns, and garages during this time. In the spring, adults will begin to emerge from their overwintering locations as temperatures begin to warm.

A great resource for homeowners is a publication from Cornell University. It's important to remember that it is geared towards homeowners in the east - in Illinois, we've yet to have a circumstance where treating the landscape outside the home has been needed to decrease the number of BMSB home invaders: [The Unwelcome House Guest: Brown](#)

### [Marmorated Stink Bug—A Guide for Residents, Property Managers, and Pest Management Professionals](#)

BMSB has been making headlines in Illinois for a couple of years. After the first confirmation of this invasive insect was reported in the fall of 2010 (Cook County), additional reports continued in 2011 (Kane, McLean, and Champaign counties). In late 2012, BMSB was confirmed in Jacksonville (Morgan County) and the first report has also come out of the Quad Cities area (Scott County, Iowa).

Currently, the known distribution of this insect in Illinois is limited. Homeowners are our primary source of information during the fall and spring. We are very interested in where these insects may be and continue to try to determine where they are in Illinois. Given the threat of frost (and wintry mix/snow in some areas) this week, I suspect we'll see a drop in the number of calls about this insect, but we still encourage you to contact us if you think you have BMSB in your area.

If you believe you have BMSB, we would be very interested in looking at it. Suspect stink bugs may be sent to Kelly Estes, 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820. Please put stink bugs in a crush-proof container (pill bottle, check box, etc). You can also send a photo to [kcook8@illinois.edu](mailto:kcook8@illinois.edu) for preliminary screening if you wish. (*Kelly Estes*)

### **Water now to help prevent winter burn to evergreen trees and shrubs**

In the May 13th issue of the newsletter I wrote about winter burn, a form of

winter injury that commonly affects broadleaved evergreens such as rhododendrons and boxwoods. This type of injury can also affect narrow leaved evergreens such as yew, arborvitae and hemlock. It is more severe on drought stressed plants. Last year's drought and dry start to the winter likely contributed to the symptoms of winter burn and even the death of many evergreens in our area.

As a reminder, winter burn occurs as the amount of water lost from the leaf tissues exceeds the amount the roots and stems are able to transport. During the winter months, photosynthetic processes of evergreens are slowed, but the plants continue to lose water. Dry or frozen soils limit the water available to trees and shrubs to uptake. Dry soils can be even more damaging as the soils tend to freeze more deeply. Plants located in areas unprotected from desiccating winds are also commonly affected.

Though we cannot control the weather, or how cold it will get, we can take a few steps to prevent this type of injury.

- **Maintain adequate soil moisture.** As most of the state is currently under some degree of drought, trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, need adequate soil moisture before going into the winter season. Check the soil moisture around plants. Irrigate as needed to a depth of 18" for most shrubs. During dry winters, supplemental irrigation during winter months may be required. Irrigate during warm spells when the ground is not frozen. Water early in the day and do not allow water to collect and stand near the trunk where it may freeze and damage the plant. Mulching

will also help to insulate the soil and conserve soil moisture.

- **Select an appropriate planting location.** Rhododendrons other susceptible evergreens should be located where they receive partial shade and protection from desiccating winter winds.
- **Build protective screens** to provide shade and windbreaks. They can be constructed with burlap or other materials. Temporary fences, such as snow fencing, can also be effective.

Rhododendrons also have mechanisms to help protect their leaves from winter injury. You may have observed rhododendron leaves rolling, curling, and drooping on cold winter days. This action is normal and reduces the amount of tissues exposed to direct sunlight and desiccating winds.

*(Travis Cleveland)*

## Index 2013

Following is an index to the pests and other topics addressed in the 2013 issues of the Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter. Following each item is the issue number where each topic is located.

### General

Drought 1  
First Detector training 2  
Healthy plants 3  
Invasive species awareness 2  
Pesticides 9, 14, 16  
Phenology 1, 3  
Plant Clinic 1, 7, 14

### Insects

Aphids 5  
Asian longhorned beetle 13  
Bagworm 9, 10, 11

Borers 5  
Boxelder bug 9  
Brown marmorated stink bug 3, 14, 17  
Earthworm 1  
Emerald ash borer 4, 13  
European pine sawfly 2  
Fall webworm 14  
Green June beetle 12  
Gypsy moth 3  
Hemlock woolly adelgid 8  
Honey bees 6, 16  
Japanese beetle 9, 10, 11  
Leafminer 10  
Mealybug 8  
Mimosa webworm 6  
Minute pirate bug 12  
Mites 1, 8  
Neonicotinoids 16  
Planthopper 7  
Pollinators 14, 16  
Potato leafhopper 15  
Sawfly 2  
Scale 5  
Spotted wing drosophila 12, 14  
Springtail 12  
Sycamore lace bug 16  
Sycamore leafhopper 16  
Ticks 4  
Viburnum leaf beetle 7  
Whiteflies 15  
White grubs 11, 13, 17  
Woolly aphid 7  
Yellow-bellied sapsucker 2  
Yellownecked caterpillar 13

## **Diseases**

Anthraxnose 4  
Bacterial leaf scorch 11, 15  
Bacterial leaf spot 9  
Blight 8, 13  
Bur oak blight 15  
Cedar rust 7  
Cryptococcus macerans 2  
Downy mildew 2, 4  
Drought 1  
Holly decline 8  
Late blight 15  
Leaf blotch 16  
Maple blight 5  
Oak wilt 10  
Rust 7, 14  
Slime mold 11  
Sanitation 10  
Taphrina 6  
Thousand cankers 13, 14  
Tomato woes 9, 13, 15  
Verticillium wilt 12  
Winter injury 3, 17

## **Weeds**

Asiatic dayflower 10  
Dandelion 2  
Giant hogweed 5  
Herbicides 4  
Invasive weeds 4  
Lesser celandine 3  
Purslane 7  
Quackgrass 9  
Star of Bethlehem 1