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 be 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/](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), chlorantraniliprole (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.

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

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Sycamore leafhopper
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Yellownecked caterpillar

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Taphrina
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