

Whiteflies

In recent weeks, you may have noticed a cloud of tiny white specks emerge from plants in your yard. These tiny insects are whiteflies. While they have the word “fly” in their name, they are actually more closely related with aphids, scales and mealybugs. Like aphids and scales, they suck fluids from plants with straw-like mouthparts and produce sugary, liquid droppings called honeydew. In large populations, they can become pests of vegetables, ornamentals and greenhouses.



Greenhouse whitefly (Trialeurodes vaporariorum), Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Adult whiteflies are tiny winged insects, about 1/16 of an inch long. They are white with powdery white wings hold over their body like the roof of a house. Females leave their mouthpart inserted into the plant and move their abdomen while laying eggs. As a result, eggs are deposited in a circular pattern of 30 - 40 eggs.

Nymphs, called crawlers, hatch from the eggs and walk on the surface of plants before inserting their mouthparts on the underside of a leaf, where they molt to become stationary nymphs. During the last instar, the nymph ceases feeding and undergoes physiological changes, making this life stage functionally similar to the pupal stage in insects that go through complete metamorphosis. During this stage, they are flat discs, often with pale, waxy fringe. When adults emerge, they can live for about a month.



Bandedwinged whitefly (Trialeurodes abutiloneus), Nancy Gregory, University of Delaware, Bugwood.org.

Three common species of whiteflies in Illinois are the greenhouse whitefly (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*), silverleaf whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*; also called sweet potato whitefly) and bandedwinged whitefly (*Trialeurodes abutiloneus*). Bandedwinged whitefly is the most common species in Illinois. It can be identified by the two dark bands on each of its forewings. They feed primarily of velvetleaf but move to alternate hosts later in the season. They do not reproduce heavily on alternate host plants and do not require control. In some cases, control may be warranted on velvetleaf and flowering maple in the genus *Abutilon*.

Greenhouse whitefly and silverleaf whitefly lack the dark banding and are completely white. They are unable to overwinter in Illinois but can survive in greenhouses and are moved outdoors with plants in the spring. Because they have multiple generations throughout the growing season, their populations can become quite large by late summer and fall and have the potential to damage ornamental plants.

Damage appears as wrinkled, curled or cupped leaves. Large populations can also produce large quantities of honeydew making the surface of plants sticky and prone to sooty mold growth.

If whitefly populations are high late in the growing season, they are unlikely to cause significant damage and do not require treatment. However, if both significant aesthetic damage and nymphs are present on the plants, greenhouse whitefly or silverleaf whitefly may warrant control. Treatment should target

nymphs. Insecticidal soap and summer oils are effective treatments for whiteflies. Apply them according to the product label, which may require a weekly application for two to four weeks. Chemical insecticides like pyrethroids are also effective when treatment is warranted.

[\(Sarah Hughson\)](#)

White Snakeroot

White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*) is a perennial plant in bloom now in central Illinois. It prefers shaded areas and can be found in woodlands, pastures, roadsides, streambeds, and waste places. It can form dense stands.



White snakeroot grows 1 to 3 feet tall. The stem is branched near the top. The leaves are dark green, 2.5-7 in. long, simple, opposite or sometimes whorled, elliptical, thin, with toothed margins, and attached with a slender petiole. Both the stems and leaves are smooth. The flowers are produced July to October. They are small and comprised of bright white, numerous disk flowers only which make them look somewhat fuzzy. They appear in flat-topped clusters. The roots are much branched and fibrous. White snakeroot spreads by seeds and short rhizomes.



It is described by Czarapata as a native plant that sometimes needs control. This plant contains a cumulative poison that causes “trembles” in cattle and horses. Cows that consume this plant produce milk that is toxic to humans unless it is processed or diluted. This “milk sickness” was a serious scourge of the early pioneers and is thought to be the cause of death of Abraham Lincoln’s mother. Fortunately, cattle will typically avoid this plant if there are better sources of food present. Plants can be somewhat easily pulled and removed from the site. This practice should be done prior to seed set.

Some closely related and similarly looking snakeroots include Smaller White Snakeroot (*E. aromaticum*) with shorter-stalked and thickish leaves and Late-flowering Boneset (*E. serotinum*) with alternate upper leaves, more broadly lance-shaped leaves, and much taller stems reaching 3-6 ft. The latter is common in Illinois in open, sunny areas and is in bloom now too.

To add to the confusion, there are other plants with snakeroot in their name. Some species of *Sanicula* include Black Snakeroot, Clustered Snakeroot, Short-styled Snakeroot, and Long-fruited Snakeroot. These plants are in the parsley family and have palmately divided leaves. Button snakeroot is another name for Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). Sampson's Snakeroot is another name for Striped Gentian (*Gentiana villosa*). Seneca Snakeroot (*Polygala senega*) is a species of milkwort. Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) is in the Birthwort family. And finally, Whitesnake is a rock band that was popular in the 1980's whose songs have been in my head throughout this entire writing.

[*\(Michelle Wiesbrook\)*](#)

Sources:

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control by Elizabeth Czarapata

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide by Lawrence Newcomb

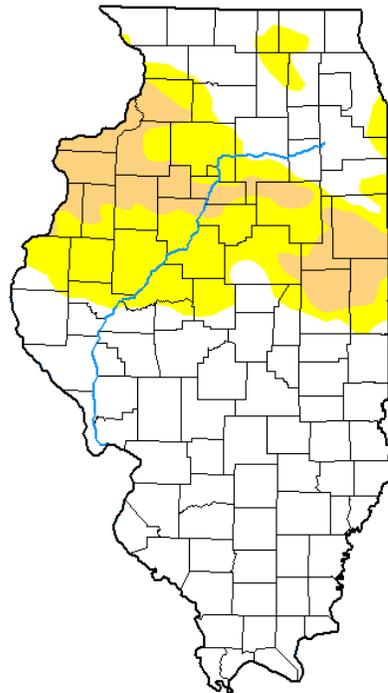
Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains by J. Stubbendieck et. al.

Norway Maple Leaf Scorch

Over the last two weeks, I have received several reports of Norway maples with scorched leaves and extensive defoliation. The maroon to purple-leaved cultivars seem to be especially affected, with nearly every tree that I've observed in Champaign and Vermilion counties showing these symptoms. The University of Illinois Plant Clinic examined a few samples, but was unable to identify any pathogens that would be associated with scorching and defoliation. We suspect the symptoms are related to prolonged, abnormally dry conditions affecting parts of the state.

U.S. Drought Monitor
Illinois

September 10, 2019
(Released Thursday, Sep. 12, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Figure 1. U.S. Drought Monitor showing portions of Illinois under abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions. September 10, 2019,

Scorch is most common following prolonged periods of dry, windy weather or bright sunshine when the roots are unable to supply water to the foliage as rapidly as it is lost through the leaves by transpiration. The injury also is most common where plants are growing in an unfavorable location, such as in sandy or gravelly soil, near obstructions or pavement that restricts the area for root growth, or on an exposed windy slope.



Figure 2. Norway maple with scorched leaves

While the scorching and defoliation may be alarming, it is unlikely to cause long-term harm to the trees. Affected trees should fully recover with new growth during the spring. In future growing seasons, plants susceptible to scorch can be aided by mulching to conserve soil moisture. Supplemental watering may also be necessary during extended periods of hot, dry weather.

([Travis Cleveland](#))

Household Hazardous Material Collection Events Scheduled for Fall 2019

Fall can be an excellent time for cleaning up your chemical storage area. Now is the time to get rid of any old or unwanted pesticides while this growing season's use is still fresh in your mind. The household hazardous material collection schedule has been released to the public. More information can be found below. Here are a few options you have for disposing of your old or unwanted pesticides:

1. Use them up. You can usually apply them to a labeled-use site regardless of whether or not pests are present. Be sure to read and follow all label directions. Sometimes pesticides are taken off the market, or certain uses are removed from the label. In those cases, existing stocks can typically still be used. Rarely does US-EPA order a stop-use on the product. However, it is illegal to apply old stocks of chlordane or 2,4,5-T. To learn about the registration status of your

product in question, you can contact the manufacturer or the Illinois Department of Agriculture, (217)785-2427.

2. Give them away. Fellow neighboring gardeners may be interested in your castoffs. It's not recommended that you sell unwanted pesticides. To sell a pesticide legally, it must still be in the original packaging with the complete label. If the pesticide is restricted use, you must be licensed in order to sell it. If the product registration has been cancelled, selling is illegal.

3. Take them to a hazardous waste collection event. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has scheduled a few one-day household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events to be held across Illinois this fall. See below for the schedule.

For a list of household hazardous waste materials that are acceptable or unacceptable at these collections, please visit the Illinois EPA's Web site at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/Pages/acceptable-wastes.aspx>.

If in doubt, it may be best to first contact the Waste Reduction Unit of the IEPA at (217)785-8604.

There are special hazardous material collection events for other non-household types of pesticides:

- Agricultural pesticides are collected at various scheduled "Agricultural Pesticide Clean Sweep" events. Contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture, (217)785-2427, for more information.
- Structural pesticides (those used by professional applicators to control pests in and around structures) are collected at "Structural Pesticide Clean Sweep" sites. Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health, (217)782-4674, for more information.

One-day Collection Schedule

10/5/19

Village of Bensenville Public Works

717 East Jefferson

Bensenville

Co-sponsored by: Village of Bensenville and DuPage County

10/12/19

Expo Gardens

1601 West Northmoor Road

Peoria

Co-sponsored by: Peoria County Recycling & Resource Conservation

10/12/19

Adams County Highway Department
101 North 54th Street
Quincy

Co-sponsored by: Adams County

10/26/19

Champaign -- For this location only, registration is required at <http://hhwevent.simplybook.me/>. For assistance with registration, contact one of the following:

City of Champaign (217) 403-4780

City of Urbana (217) 384-2302

Champaign County (217) 819-4127

Co-sponsored by: Champaign County, City of Champaign, and City of Urbana

10/26/19

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

Edwardsville

Co-sponsored by: Madison County

One-day collections are open from 8 am to 3 pm on the above scheduled Saturdays. Please note these are open to all Illinois residents. In addition, the following long-term facilities are available for disposal of HHW. Please phone ahead to determine availability and open hours.

City of Chicago

Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility

1150 N. North Branch on Goose Island

Tues: 7 am - noon

Thursday: 2 pm - 7 pm

First Saturday of each month: 8 am - 3 pm

For information: (312) 744-7672 or (312) 747-9884

Rockford:

Rock River Reclamation District

3333 Kishwaukee

Sat: 8 am - 4 pm

Sun: Noon - 4 pm

For information: (815) 987-5570

<http://knib.org/recycling/green-guide/household-hazardous-waste-site/>

Naperville:

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

156 Fort Hill Dr.

For information: (630) 420-6095

<https://www.naperville.il.us/services/garbage-and-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-facility/>

Lake County:

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) currently operates a long-term household chemical waste collection program. Information and a collection schedule can be found on the SWALCO Web site <http://www.swalco.org/> or by calling 847/336-9340.

For questions concerning the IEPA's one-day or long-term collections, please call the Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 524-3300.

[\(Michelle Wiesbrook\)](#)