



Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter

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Leave Overwintering Habitat for Beneficial Insects This Fall!

Holding off on some fall clean up in the home landscape can provide essential overwintering habitat for beneficial insects and beloved native species like lacewings, solitary bees and fritillary butterflies! Here are some of the habitats these insects can benefit from:

Leaf litter

Leaf litter can be left as cover in flower beds. It provides good shelter for overwintering beneficial insects. Many species of bumble bees, likely including the endangered rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), overwinter in leaf litter or in the loose soil below. Leaf litter allows insect predators, like spiders, lady beetles and ground beetles, to shelter in locations close to their prey. Leaf litter and can provide food for macro-decomposers like sowbugs.

Standing ornamental plants

Allowing some standing perennials and ornamental grasses to remain throughout the winter can provide overwintering sites for native solitary bees. Solitary bees often overwinter inside hollow stalks, canes or other standing plant material, where they are protected from the elements. Some species will even block the opening of a hollow stem with plant debris.

Many local fritillary species overwinter as caterpillars on or near their host plants. Swallowtail butterflies like the eastern black swallowtail butterflies (*Papilio polyxenes*) overwinter as a pupa inside a chrysalis. The chrysalises of these species are anchored to stalks or stems of plants. Both chrysalises and caterpillars are well camouflaged, making them easy to overlook and accidentally clear away with debris.



Fall flower bed with leaf litter, Sarah Hughson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Other sheltering sites

Many insects like lacewings and lady beetles, prefer to overwinter in small crevices in the landscape, including spaced between bits of bark on trees, in log piles or in small gaps between rocks. The mourning cloak butterfly (*Nymphalis antiopa*) overwinters as an adult butterfly in spaces between the bark on trees, in wood piles or inside your shed.

Areas with loose soil and abandoned rodent holes can also be safe overwintering sites for some species of native bees, including some species of bumble bees.

Sarah Hughson - hughson2@illinois.edu



Black swallowtail chrysalis (Papilio polyxenes), Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

Late Fall Still a Good Time for Weed Control

The temperatures are finally turning cooler and many of us gardeners may be secretly hoping for a frost to end this growing season. But with the changing temperatures and seasons, we tend to have a change in weed species present. It's time for our cool season annual weeds to germinate and I've seen an abundance of henbit and common chickweed germinating in Central Illinois. Additionally, our cool season perennial weeds are actively growing this time of year.

Now is the perfect time to replenish mulch in beds where perhaps the mulch is too thin or simply gone thanks to the wind, the family dog, birds or simple degradation. Cooler temperatures are more comfortable to work in and your perennial plantings will appreciate the protective, blanket cover this winter. When applied at about 2-4 inches deep, mulch works well to block light needed for weed seed germination. If existing weeds are very small, you may be able to simply cover the plants with thick mulch and the mulch will act to smother them. For larger weeds, it would be best to remove them by hand or with a hoe before applying the mulch. Otherwise, they (and you) will be back. If you haven't applied a preemergent herbicide in areas where winter annual weeds are known to be a problem, it may not be too late to do so. Applications can be made throughout the winter months as long as conditions are favorable. These weeds can and will often continue to germinate as long as temperatures aren't too cold. Weeds such as henbit and chickweed simply go dormant then and resume growth once temperatures warm up.



A dense population of young Henbit, Michelle Wiesbrook, University of Illinois.

Some cool season perennial weeds such as dandelion are controlled well with postemergent herbicides in cooler temperatures provided that the plants are still actively growing. In Central Illinois, we still don't have an immediate fear of frost. In fact, fall is the best time to treat dandelions even though they are out of sight and out of mind compared to spring when they are in full bloom and easily noticed. Florasulam (Defendor) tends to be more effective in cooler temperatures on dandelion than other tra-

ditional postemergent herbicides. This herbicide can also be used early in the spring (at least 2 weeks prior to flowering) on dandelion in cooler temperatures. This early control can help to prevent turf from appearing more yellow than green in the spring during bloom time.

In the fall when day length shortens and temperatures drop, perennial weeds are busy preparing for winter. Translocation is moving downward in the plant which helps to carry herbicide down to the roots. In fact, research by colleagues at Nebraska found that applications made one to 10 days after the first fall frost resulted in greater control than applications made five to 11 days before frost. Research from Michigan State University indicates that dandelion control can still be achieved even when plants are not actively growing. Although I trust that adequate leaf surface area is needed to take the herbicide up. Finally, Purdue research has found that for ground ivy, early to mid-November applications provided similar control to that of earlier applications made in September and October.



Translocation will assist with herbicide movement into the taproot of dandelion, Michelle Wiesbrook, University of Illinois.

So although the growing season may be wrapping up, there's still time to make a difference in your weed populations. Take advantage of these cooler

temperatures which are more conducive to manual labor and can result in excellent weed control as well.

Michelle Wiesbrook – buesinge@illinois.edu

September and October 2021 Plant Clinic Sample Summary

Summary of ornamental, fruit, and vegetable samples diagnosed September 1 through Oct. 15 at the University of Illinois Plant Clinic.

The Plant Clinic remains open. We are currently operating with reduced staff and are only in the lab as needed for diagnostics and other lab work. We may not be able to answer or return phone calls in a timely manner though we are making every attempt to do so. You can also email us at plantclinic@illinois.edu.

Samples shipped via USPS, UPS, and FedEx are all arriving in a timely manner. We recommend shipping early in the week (Monday-Wednesday) and keeping the tracking number so we can trace the package if needed.

We are receiving more maple and oak samples. Tubakia leaf spot is showing up late in the season on oak trees; for more information about this disease, please see: <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=738>

Two common insect pests associated with environmental stress, Kermes and Lecanium scale, have also been showing up more frequently than in the past. For more information about Lecanium scales, please see: <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=804> and for more information about Kermes scales, please see: <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=368> As in August, we're seeing a lot of jumping oak gall. This is usually not considered a threat to overall healthy trees, though heavy infestations especially on white oaks can cause browning and defoliation: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/jumping-oak-gall-causing-damage-to-white-oak>

We tested 51 samples for bacterial leaf scorch (BLS) in September and will continue testing samples as they are submitted. Samples can be submitted now and will be tested in batches. For more information

about bacterial leaf scorch, please see: <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=1029>

The number of turf samples submitted has increased in the last month. The most common diagnoses has been with anthracnose basal rot, a difficult-to-control disease. For more information, please see: <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2011/6-15/turfdisease.html> and <https://ag.umass.edu/turf/factsheets/anthracnose-foliar-blight-basal-rot>. We've also found rust on a few samples.

As we get into the end of the growing season, remember to prepare your plants for winter!

Carefully inspect any tender plants you plan to bring inside, both before and after you move them into your house. Be ready to treat pests that may appear, especially spider mites. Continue watering trees and shrubs if we hit a dry spell until the plants have completely shut down for the winter. Consider a barrier or insulation for plants that are prone to damage due to cold temperatures or exposure to drying winds. These tasks can help plants make it safely through the winter so they're ready to grow next year!

Diane Plewa – dplewa@illinois.edu

September/October 2021 Plant Clinic Sample Summary

Host	Pathogens and/or Pests Confirmed (C) or Suspected (S)
Apple (domestic)	Apple black rot (C), Frogeye leaf spot (C), Apple scab (C)
Arborvitae	Phyllosticta needle blight (C), Environmental stress (S)
Boxwood	Macrophoma leaf spot (C), Volutella blight (C), Fusarium canker (C), Environmental stress (S)
Catalpa	Verticillium wilt (C)
Cockscomb (Celosia)	Environmental stress (S)
Chrysanthemum	Fusarium canker (C)
Crabapple	Apple scab (C)
Dogwood	Frogeye leaf spot (C)
Globe Amaranth	Rhizoctonia root rot (C)
Juniper	Kabatina needle blight (C), Phomopsis tip blight (C)
Maple	Anthracnose (C), Phyllosticta leaf spot (C), Maple spider mite (C), Fungal cankers (C), Lecanium scale (C), Environmental stress (S)
Oak	Oak wilt (C), Anthracnose (C), Bacterial leaf scorch (C), Cynipid gall wasp (C), Tubakia leaf spot (C), Powdery mildew (C), Cristulariella leaf spot (C), Kermes scale (C), Jumping oak gall (C), Fungal cankers (C), Anthracnose (C), Bur oak blight (S), Environmental stress (S),
Oxeye	White mold (C)
Pine	Environmental stress (S)
Rhododendron	Azalea bark scale (C), Environmental stress (S)
Spruce	Sudden Needle Drop (SNEED) (C), Pine needle scale (C), Rhizosphaera needle cast (C), Stigmata needle cast (C), Spruce bud scale (C), Spruce spider mite (S), Environmental stress (S)
Turf	Anthracnose (C), Bipolaris leaf spot (C), Rust (C), Rhizoctonia root rot (C)
Yew	Cryptocline needle blight (C), Phyllosticta (C), Oedema (C), Environmental stress (S)

Last Issue for 2021

This is the last issue of the Home, Yard, and Garden Pest Newsletter for this year. We plan to publish the first issue of 2022 in mid-April. As always, your suggestions for improving this newsletter are welcome. Thanks for your interest and input this year.

Travis Cleveland – tclevela@illinois.edu

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Travis Cleveland – tclevela@illinois.edu



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