

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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## INSECTS

Gregory Hoover

Ornamental Extension Entomologist

CALICO SCALE, *Eulecanium cerasorum*, infestations have become a common problem, especially on honeylocust and sweetgum, in landscapes during the past several years. This soft scale is also a pest of dogwood, maple, elm, Japanese zelkova, flowering crabapple, walnut, hackberry, wisteria, and Boston ivy. It is known from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, and Rhode Island as well as the Pacific Coast states.

Mature females are globular, 6-8 mm in diameter with a white and dark brown color pattern, thus, its common name. This color darkens quickly when the female dies. Eggs are produced beneath the body of the female in late May. Crawlers hatch in mid-June and move to the leaves to feed. In late summer before leaf drop, crawlers molt into second instar nymphs and move back to the twigs. This species overwinters as oval, flattened, light to dark brown second instar nymphs on host plant twigs. It appears that this species develops by means of parthenogenesis. Only one generation is produced per year.

The calico scale is usually a source of an abundance of honeydew. This sugar rich substance is a substrate on which sooty mold grows. Sidewalks beneath infested branches may become blackened by the sooty mold. Heavily infested branches may dieback as the result of feeding by this soft scale insect.

To effectively manage this soft scale, apply horticultural oil according to label directions as a dormant treatment. Crawlers can be managed by using registered formulations of DeltaGard T&O, insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, Scimitar, or Tempo applied according to label directions to the lower leaf surface from mid-June through July. Commercial applicators may use a soil injection of registered formulations of Merit applied according to label directions on trees in the landscape if they can provide adequate soil moisture prior to soil injecting this material. Early spring soil injections usually work best against this pest when enough moisture exists in the soil. Two hymenopterous parasitoids are known to attack this soft scale insect. Evidence of their successful development is usually indicated by a small round hole in the surface of a mature female calico scale. Lady beetles also feed on the crawler stage of this landscape pest.

## DISEASES

Bob Mulrooney

Extension Plant Pathologist

CEDAR-QUINCE RUST is very evident now on susceptible hawthorns. Cedar-quince rust is caused by a fungal pathogen called *Gymnosporangium clavipes*. This fungus occurs on a wide

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## What's Hot!

Mosses can be a undesirable component of the lawn. Mosses are not the cause of turf decline, but a symptom of either environmental or management stresses. Mosses often develop when one or more of the following conditions occur: low soil fertility, poor soil drainage, compacted soils, excessive shade, high humidity, and poor air circulation. Altering the soil pH will not eliminate moss growth. To eliminate unwanted moss, hand rake and correct the conditions that caused moss growth.

Now is the time to actively scout for bagworm infestation. Bagworm hatch has been reported in PA and DE. A Sussex county Christmas tree operation found two infested trees even though they had been bagworm free for a year. Control bagworms while they are small but keep looking because hatch can occur throughout July.

The dry weather we had the last several weeks slowed disease activity, but now that thundershowers and high humidity have arrived, look for an increase in disease activity. Crabapple scab will pick up as well as powdery mildew, rusts and other leaf spot diseases in the landscape. Maintain sprays for control of black spot on rose and powdery mildew on flowering dogwood.

Japanese beetles have arrived in force. They were found covering aronia foliage

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## For more information

on pests &amp; practices covered in this

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line	831-8862
(for home gardeners only)	
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

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## Diseases (Continued)

range of rose family plants, including mountain ash, hawthorn, quince, flowering quince, serviceberry, crabapple, and apple (apples are somewhat resistant). In addition, eastern red cedars, common, prostrate, Rocky Mountain and savin junipers are possible evergreen hosts. In order to survive, the fungus must "move" from one type of host to another (e.g., from juniper to hawthorn). On hawthorn and serviceberry, young branches and fruit are usually infected. On hawthorn, the pinkish-white aecia (tubes) occur mainly on branches, thorns, and fruit. Hawthorn and serviceberry fruit often becomes heavily covered with aecia and look very abnormally swollen. Branch and thorn infections result in spindle-shaped, perennial cankers that expand each growing season. However, most infected branches are girdled by the canker during the second season, causing die-back to a bud or side-shoot. If you can find the evergreen host look for the slightly swollen bright orange cankers in the spring and prune them out. Otherwise the disease does not affect the health of the infected plants just their appearance.

## What's Hot (Continued)

- on a roadside plot in Newark
- and are throughout the UDBG.
- Weekly sprays in July will only
- partially control adults.
- Beetles can be handpicked
- from individual specimens in a
- home garden.

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Editor: Susan Barton  
Extension Horticulturist

