

Wisconsin Horticulture Update Summary, September 12, 2014

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WI WEATHER REVIEW

Weather review from the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin is done for the season.

Growing Degree Days (GDD)

Growing degree days is an accumulation of maximum and minimum temperatures as directly related to insect and plant development. As of September 12, in Wisconsin, the GDDmod 50 ranged from 1430 to 2532: Appleton-2045; Bayfield-1430; Beloit-2532; Big Flats-2189; Crandon-1620; Crivitz-1804; Cumberland-1936; Eau Claire-2227; Fond du Lac-2069; Green Bay-1929; Hancock-2189; Hartford-2063; Juneau-2183; LaCrosse-2467; Lone Rock-2490; Madison-2362; Medford-1773; Milwaukee-2025; Port Edward-2107; Racine-2049; Sullivan-2063; Waukesha-2063; Wausau-1846. To determine the Degree Days of any city in Wisconsin, use the Degree Day calculator at

http://agwx.soils.wisc.edu/uwex_agwx/thermal_models/many_degree_days_for_date

The following phenological information gives a perspective on how GDD accumulation relates to some plant and insect development (<http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/Web/049DegreeDays.pdf> and http://www.ipm.msu.edu/agriculture/christmas_trees/gdd_of_landscape_insects): Northern pine weevil-2nd adults active-1200; Pales weevil-2nd adults active-1200; Pine root collar weevil-2nd adults active-1200; White pine weevil-2nd adults active-1200; Fall webworm caterpillars feeding-1200; Beech scale-egg hatch, 1st crawlers-1250; Panicked Goldenraintree-first bloom-1251; Pine needle scale-2nd generation egg hatch-1250; Elm leaf beetle-2nd generation-1300; Rose-of Sharon-firstbloom-1347; American plum borer-2nd generation-1375; Pine needle scale-2nd generation-hyaline stage (control target)-1500; Cooley spruce gall adelgid-2nd adults active (control target)-1500; Eastern spruce gall adelgid-2nd adults active (control target)-1500; Walnut caterpillar egg hatch, caterpillars-1600; Zimmerman pine moth-adult flight-1700; Arborvitae leafminer-3rd generation-1700; Banded ash clearwing borer-adult emergence-1800-2200; Fall webworm-tents become apparent-1850; Euonymus scale-egg hatch - 2nd generation-1900; Magnolia scale egg hatch-1925.

INTRODUCTION

Today's WHU host was Columbia County horticulture educator George Koepp. The specialist was Insect Diagnostic Lab Manager P.J. Leisch. Other discussion participants were representatives of the following counties: Kenosha (Margaret and Leon); Marinette and Florence (Scott); St. Croix (Heidi); Pierce (Diana); Portage (Walt); Walworth (Chrissy); Winnebago (Kimberly).

Hort's Shorts

Columbia: The rain and cloud cover is keeping the ground warm enough to avoid frost. Questions this week were on moths and bees. Trees are still struggling to make it through the weather of the last couple years and this year's wet weather.

Portage County: Two samples of Spotted Wing Drosophila were confirmed. Our farm market is shutting down because it is rampant. A pear sample came in that looked like it had exploded and had pear scab all over. We had an apple come in that was bruised and had interior tunneling but it didn't look like apple maggot so I would appreciate any input. Gardens are starting to shut down and tomatoes are good and bad; I only picked a dozen tomatoes from 15 plants. It has been cloudy and humid.

Kenosha County: We only had one question on creeping Charlie. Perhaps the cold snap has caused people to go inside.

Marinette County: It has not been a fun year horticulturally or for crops. We have had a terrible year for early and late blight and we are fungal ridden. It has been one of the worst years for tomatoes that I have ever seen in 18 years from a combination of disease and cool and wet weather. We had our first report this year of Japanese beetle from a Marinette County client and the growing season is officially over due to frost in many places up here.

Winnebago County: We have had lots of rain and lots of tomato issues. We have had many calls on tree problems such as bur oak blight and issues with ash trees. We had the first sample of SWD this year. There has been a variety of things.

Walworth County: We are dealing with the chill, although the rain has kept the lawns green. We are getting reports of ground beetles and millipedes trying to move inside. It has been quiet so maybe people are giving up on their gardens.

St. Croix County: We finally got some rain and I found the soil wet a foot down while I was digging potatoes. We are getting calls about identifying apple cultivars from people who may not have planted the trees, but now own them. Vegetables are doing very well, especially green beans and other veggies that like it cooler. Wasps and bees are looking for overwintering sites and people are asking about fall wax worms and hornets, wasps and bees looking for overwintering sites and what they should do if they try to get in the house. My fall raspberries are coming but they have SWD. The break in the crop did not persuade them to go elsewhere.

Pierce County: It has been quiet here for calls. We have had heavy rains which should help trees and shrubs go into winter well-hydrated. We did questions about cracking tomatoes as the moisture is taken up, some weed and insect ID and some calls asking when pears and apples should be harvested. Vegetable gardens are winding

down for the year and plants are looking pretty crummy due to disease. Even though tomatoes came in late, people are reporting bumper crops.

SPECIALIST REPORT: Insect Diagnostic Lab Update

Presented by P. J. Liesch, Associate Researcher, UW-Madison Department of Entomology, and Manager of the UW-Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab pliesch@wisc.edu

We are still getting reports of fishing spiders as they have been getting some media attention. We are also getting pictures of orb weaving spiders and some are 2-3 inches long. Given the wet weather, we are getting reports of slug damage. One picture was of a green pepper that had been tunneled into and we thought it looked like slug damage even though no slug was found. We had lots of calls on yellow jackets, bald faced hornets and paper wasps. One unusual case was of a tiny beetle called a grain beetle. We are also getting reports of the copper underwing moth.

Fishing Spiders and Orb Weavers

Fishing spiders are native and although large and imposing, are not dangerous to humans. Orb weavers are also large garden spiders that are white and yellow. The orb weavers eat garden pests.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/common-spiders-in-and-around-homes/>

Ground Nesting Wasps/Hornets/Yellow Jackets

Colonies of these insects build up over the summer. If the nest is in an unsafe place like a wall cavity, a dust or powder formulation is more effective for control. The dust gets caught on the hairs on their bodies and legs and is carried deeper into the nest. If the nest is out in the open like a paper wasp nest, a can of wasp insecticide spray is effective.

<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectid/files/2014/03/WaspandBeeControl.pdf>

Foreign Grain Beetle

These tiny beetles are found in newly constructed homes. When the wood is wet, a surface layer of harmless mold grows and attracts the beetle. As the wood dries out, the beetles emerge. They are not dangerous and tend to die out on their own when the home dries out. They are usually gone after the first season post-construction.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/foreign-grain-beetles/>

Copper Underwing Moth

These moths are a dull gray, but if you spread their wings you will see the dull bronze color. They congregate in the hundreds on siding as they try to gain entry into the house through gaps in the siding or any other crevice. They are harmless, but can be a nuisance. Cool weather may cause their numbers to drop off quickly. They will leave little reddish brown excrement stains which can be cleaned up with soap and a spray of water. We have had reports in many counties mostly in the central and western portion of the state, including Adams, Monroe, Pepin, Lafayette, Dane, and Wood (suspected). Both George and Kimberly commented that they had seen them in Columbia and Winnebago counties.

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/13299>

Questions/Comments for P.J. Leisch

We get these huge tan spiders late in the summer in our horse barn that look like they have little balloons on them. They form big webs (like Charlotte's web) and hang down on silk, but don't seem to bother anything. They seem to overwinter up there.

Snap a picture and send it in. It could be one of the orb weaver class of spiders. Cross orb weavers are common and have a cross on the underside. There are a handful of common ones that look similar.

SPECIALIST REPORT: Plant Diagnostic Disease Clinic

Presented by Brian Hudelson, Sr. Outreach Specialist, UW-Plant Pathology, and Director of the UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC) bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu

There was no PDDC update this week.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Wrap and Review for the Year

There was no special topic this week. The time will be spent evaluating this weekly conference to give everyone a chance to say what they liked and what was helpful and maybe even suggest some topics for next year.

Weekly Podcast

Diana asked (in Brian's absence) how much people used the weekly podcast that he puts out on the website. Brian spends a lot of time on it every week and wanted to make sure it was useful and valuable.

Diana said she does listen to them and knows of one greenhouse grower who listens to them late at night to catch up with what's going on in the state. Heidi said that she used it about half the time since she is not in the office on Fridays. Walt said that he did not use it. Kim reads the written summary and if there is insufficient detail in that, she will listen to the podcast. Chrissy said that of a group of MGVs, four out of five listen to it regularly. In Kenosha County we put it on our Master Gardener website and MGVs can get up to five CE credit hours for listening to it. George doesn't listen to it, but thought it was great way for MGVs to pick up CE hours. Scott did not use the podcast.

WHU Conference and Special Topics

Diana thought the WHU conference and the Special Topics were especially informative this year and asked for suggestions for next year's topics. She also mentioned that topics such as the Bees and GMOs, crazy worms, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, were very helpful.

Scott thought it was very valuable because it gave him some forewarning on pertinent issues that were coming his way. He thought the current format which allows flexibility is needed. He also liked the round robin set of topics which may provide extra incentive for people to check in from time to time. Kim liked the format, with the Special Topics being a good learning opportunity and appreciated being able to refer people to the podcast. She gave an example of referring people to a podcast in May concerning EAB and Chris Williamson's latest research, after EAB was found in Calumet County. Heidi also thought it was valuable as she has not been in her Extension position very long. Since horticulture was not her specialty, being able to hear from her colleagues on disease and insects and homeowner issues was really helpful. George really likes the format and noted that frequently the topics are on point and he is able to relay information that he has recently gleaned from the conference. The information is great for keeping him updated and making him look smart. Walt learned a tremendous amount listening to his colleagues with their county reports and the specialists around the state every week. He reiterated what others mentioned about sharing the information he had learned with the public.

Everyone agreed that Brian deserved kudos for organizing the weekly conference and putting so much work into it to make it a success. On Brian's behalf, Diana asked for suggestions for speakers and topics and to send him an Email with ideas. She didn't know if he would continue in that role or someone else might step up to help with the weekly conference, but thought it was valuable in the summer and she would miss talking to everyone every week. George was appreciative of how responsive and timely Brian, P.J., and all the other state specialists were in resolving issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chrissy (Walworth County): The monthly Master Gardener meeting on October 8 at 6:30 pm at Lake Geneva is open to anyone in the Extension or to Master Gardeners. Dr. Jim Alts from the Chicago Botanic Garden will be speaking. Just let Chrissy know if you want to attend.

Chrissy is also having a perennial dividing class on September 18 at the government center and a tree and shrub pruning class on September 25.

George: The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANRE) conference is coming up on October 20-22 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

FINAL NOTES

This was the last WHU for the year. Thanks for participating everyone.

The full audio podcast of today's and archived WHU conferences can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/>

UW LINKS

Wisconsin Horticulture webpage <http://hort.uwex.edu>

UW Plant Disease Diagnostics webpage <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/>

UW Insect Diagnostic Lab <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/>

UW Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/tdl/>

UW Vegetable Pathology Webpage <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

UW Vegetable Entomology Webpage <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/vegento/people/groves.html#>

UW-Extension Weed Science <https://fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/>

UW-Extension Learning Store <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>

UW Garden Facts <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/fact-sheet-listing/>

WHU “OFF THE AIR”

During this past week specialists have commented on these issues off the air:

VEGETABLE CROP UPDATE

Vegetable Crop Update Newsletter #22 is available at <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

Topics covered in the issue #22 include:

Late blight updates and late season/storage management
P-Days and DSVs for early/late blight disease forecasting
Cucurbit downy mildew updates

PDDC UPDATE

UW-Extension/Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update
Brian Hudelson, Ann Joy, Joyce Wu, Tom Hinsenkamp, and Catherine Wendt,
Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

There was no PDDC update at the time of this summary.