

# Wisconsin Horticulture Update Summary September 13, 2013

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## WI WEATHER REVIEW

For the week ending Sept. 8, 2013, the state saw little to no rain, with the exception of some precipitation along the Lake Michigan shoreline over the weekend. Topsoil moisture was over 70% short to very short in seven of the nine reporting districts; ratings ranged for 94% short to very short in the west-central district, to 27% short to very short in the northeast district.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1° to 4° above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 77° to 83°, while average low temperatures ranged from 52° to 59°. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.0" in La Crosse and Madison to 0.5" in Milwaukee. (WI Crop Report)

### Growing degree days (GDD)

Growing degree days is an accumulation of maximum and minimum temperature averages as related directly to plant and insect development. This week, the GDD<sub>mod50</sub> in Wisconsin ranged from 1576.2 to 2687.0. Following is a list of GDD as of Sept. 13, 2013 for the following cities: Bayfield 1576.2, Beloit 2687.0, Crandon 1797.8, Cumberland 2071.5, Dubuque 2560.0, Eau Claire 2328.0, Fond du Lac 2205.5, Green Bay 2092.0, La Crosse 2484.3, Madison 2489.1, Milwaukee 2182.6, Wausau 1981.9. To determine the GDD of any location in Wisconsin, use the degree day calculator at the UW Extension Ag Weather webpage [http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex\\_agwx/thermal\\_models/degree\\_days](http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex_agwx/thermal_models/degree_days)

To put it in perspective, following is an abbreviated list of plant and insect phenological stages in relation to GDD accumulations at which the events occur. Common lilac first bloom 207; common flowering quince full bloom 208; Sargent crabapple first bloom 213; wafaring tree viburnum first bloom 227; **elm leafminer adult emergence 228**; Koreanspice viburnum full bloom 233; eastern redbud full bloom 254; common horsechestnut first bloom 260; **pine needle scale egg hatch 1st generation 277**; Sargent crab full bloom 282; **eastern spruce aldehyd egg hatch 283**; wayfaringtree viburnum full bloom 287; blackhaw viburnum first bloom 301; redosier dogwood first bloom 311; common lilac full bloom 323; **lilac borer adult emergence 324**; Vanhoutte spirea first bloom 329; common horsechestnut full bloom 344; **lesser peach tree borer adult emergence 362**; **oystershell scale egg hatch 363**; blackhaw viburnum full bloom 370 pagoda dogwood first bloom 376; redosier dogwood full bloom 408; Vanhoutte spirea full bloom 429; black locust first bloom 455; pagoda dogwood full bloom 486; smokebush, first bloom 501; common ninebark first bloom 507; arrowwood viburnum first bloom 534; **bronze birch borer adult emergence 547**; black locust full bloom 548; **potato leafhopper adult arrival 568**; **juniper scale egg hatch 571**; common ninebark full bloom 596; arrowwood viburnum full bloom 621; multiflora rose full bloom 643; northern catalpa first bloom 675; **black vine weevil first leaf notching due to adult feeding 677**; Washington hawthorn full bloom 731; **calico scale egg hatch 748**; **greater peach tree borer adult emergence 775**; northern catalpa full bloom 816; **cottony maple scale egg hatch 851**; panicle hydrangea first bloom 856; **fall webworm egg hatch 867**; fuzzy deutzia full bloom 884; **winged euonymus scale egg hatch 892**; chickory full bloom, **squash vine borer adult emergence 900**; **Japanese beetle first emergence 970**; littleleaf linden full bloom 1117; Rose-of-Sharon first bloom 1347; **pine needle scale egg hatch, 2<sup>nd</sup> gen. 1923**; **magnolia scale egg hatch 1938**; **banded ash clearwing borer adult emergence 2195**.

## INTRODUCTION

The host for today's WHU was Phil Pellitteri, Director of the Insect Diagnostic Lab. Participants in today's discussions were representatives from the following counties: Columbia (George Koepp), Kenosha (Master Gardeners), Marquette (Lyssa Seefeldt), Racine (Patti Nagai), Walworth (Chrissy Wen) and Winnebago (Kim Miller).

## HORTS' SHORTS

Agents reported the following issues to be of interest this week. As the growing season wound down, there were fewer calls coming into the offices. Most of the state had not received rain, so lawns and gardens were drying out, and homeowners needed to be reminded to water trees through the fall. Spotted wing drosophila was suspected in Walworth Co. Emerald ash borer, confirmed in Winnebago Co., a few weeks ago, remained a topic of interest in that area.

## SPECIALIST REPORT: Insect Diagnostic Lab Update

Presented by Phil Pellitteri, Distinguished Faculty Associate, UW-Madison Department of Entomology and Director, UW-Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab [pellitte@entomology.wisc.edu](mailto:pellitte@entomology.wisc.edu)

### Hawk Moths

The white-lined sphinx moths have been out in larger numbers than usual. Approximately every six to seven to years, this moth comes out in such high populations they may be seen even during the day, foraging on petunias and other flowers. An interesting moth, it is often mistaken for a hummingbird because it hovers over flowers to feed and beats its wings very rapidly.

White Lined sphinx (WI): <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=White-linedSphinx>  
Night Flying Hawkmoths (Wayne's World): <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/manduca2.htm>

### Late Season Drought

It has been feared that last year's extensive drought would cause long-term stress on trees, and result in opportunities for chestnut borer and other boring insects to impact tree mortality. The prolonged cool rainy season

this spring and early summer seemed to have remediated the stress somewhat. However, with the lack of rain for the past two months, it appears trees may have slumped into another stress mode as they are now exhibiting early fall coloration, scorching, and signs of decline, especially in ash. It is extremely important to water trees, especially newly planted ones, until the ground freezes.

**Conifer spider mites** have two favorite seasons, dry spring and dry fall. Dry conditions in much of the state this month suggest they will thrive this fall and cause problems that may be seen for the next two to three years.

**Boxelder bugs** also proliferate with dry conditions, but they do not seem to be having a good year in 2013. There have not been reports or sightings of high populations of this insect as there were last year.

Spruce Spider Mite (PSU): <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/program/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/spruce-spider-mite.pdf>

Boxelder Bugs (UWEX): [http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact\\_Sheets/FC\\_PDF/Boxelder\\_Bugs.pdf](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Boxelder_Bugs.pdf)

## Cluster Flies

Calls have been coming in about cluster flies gathering on sunny areas of houses, looking for overwintering sites. A nuisance pest, they can be excluded from entering structures by sealing access points. It is now time to treat buildings that have had a history of cluster fly infestation.

Cluster Flies (PSU): <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/cluster-flies>

## Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles

Pockets of high populations of soybean aphids, along with their predators, multicolored Asian lady beetles, have been reported in southwestern Wisconsin. It will have to be seen whether the beetles become a household nuisance afterwards. They may begin migration into buildings after a hard frost. Although it would not be expected for infestations to be as problematic as it was ten years ago, there may be pockets of high populations entering homes in some areas.

Multi-colored Asian Lady Beetle (UWEX):

[http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact\\_Sheets/FC\\_PDF/Multicolored\\_Asian\\_Lady\\_Beetle.pdf](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Multicolored_Asian_Lady_Beetle.pdf)

## Insect Questions

### Crickets in basement

*A client has a cricket infestation in her basement. She had a similar experience about six years ago. She has not found a point of entry and is now using sticky traps to reduce numbers. Is there anything else she should do?*

The weakness of most buildings is the interface between the foundation and upper structure, with an exposed concrete area under the exterior cladding. Unless that area is sealed, insects, mice, and other critters can invade the basement. It is worth the effort to seal the entire perimeter of the house with expanding foam or other sealants to tighten up any possible access points that may not be obvious.

### Cellar spiders

*A client has a fairly bad problem with cellar spiders. One of the available factsheets suggests knocking down the webs. Is there anything else he should consider doing?*

The best course of action is to vacuum twice a year. Insecticidal sprays easily accessed by homeowners are not very effective against spiders. Professional pesticide applicators use a different formulation, a micro-encapsulated pyrethroid, such as Demand or Suspend, or a wettable powder, that spiders pick up more readily. The professionally used products for spiders are not restricted-use pesticides so they can be purchased by homeowners from internet sources found under "Do your own pesticides"; but vacuuming, in most cases, will take care of the problem.

Household Insects (VT): [http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section\\_6\\_Nuisance\\_Insects\\_of\\_the\\_House\\_and\\_Yard-3.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section_6_Nuisance_Insects_of_the_House_and_Yard-3.pdf)

# SPECIAL TOPIC: WHU Season Wrap-up

The Wisconsin Horticulture Update has been a weekly teleconference held on Friday mornings at 9:30 am. The one-hour long conferences featured special guest topics this year, along with county reports and updates by horticultural specialists. Participants were asked to comment on the format and features, and make suggestions for improvements. Today's participants contributed the following comments.

## General

- We appreciated hearing what is happening around state.
- We liked the date and time for WHU conference.

## Specialist Updates

- The updates were very timely and helpful.
- Staff and MG volunteers found updates helpful when answering questions.
- We appreciated access to specialists and their time.

## Special Topics Feature

- The special topics were very interesting.
- The additional Powerpoint presentations, visual aids and handouts were useful.
- Please limit speaker time to 20-30 minutes.

## Podcasts and Written Summaries

- Master Gardener volunteers were encouraged to listen to podcasts.
- We will survey Master Gardeners to find out if/how often they used podcasts.
- It would be helpful to know how many people use the podcasts or written summaries.
- Written summaries were helpful when a conference was missed.

## FINAL NOTES

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

This is the final WHU for the 2013 season.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated this year.

## 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 Science <http://turf.wisc.edu/>

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 <http://turf.wisc.edu/>

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

Newsletter #20 is now available at <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

Topics addressed in this newsletter are:

- Late blight updates
- Cucurbit downy mildew updates
- New calendar events

### EAB Update

There have been two new finds of emerald ash borer in already quarantined counties:

- City of New Berlin in Waukesha Co.
- City of Waukesha in Waukesha Co.

The complete list of municipalities with confirmed EAB may be found at <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=25>