

FROM THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC
Summer 2022

Pest Spring Wrap Up and Summer Heads Up

The spring was beautiful, at least in my backyard: wisteria, lupines and peonies blooming all at once and fireflies at night! However, not all is rosy. The spring was dominated by [redacted] infestations. They are growing like teenagers. I have been handpicking my specimen plants (weeping larch trained over an arch) and throwing them in the field, hoping they won't make it back. Just can't kill them, they are too big and juicy. Using burlap wrapped around the trunk to capture them at night when they travel down the trunk and handpicking the hiding larvae is a good control right now. Tanglefoot will also intercept the pests climbing back up to the tops of the tree in the daytime. They should be starting to pupate soon, so handpicking those helps. I have noticed a lot more infected caterpillars with the fungal and viral diseases which is great. Also have seen pupae of a parasitic wasp attached to their dead bodies.

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/spongy-moths>

Other pests I have noticed this spring include [redacted] on one of my Northern Lights azaleas. They are hard to see but if you look closely, you can see the small bumps on the twigs. I have tried to hand rub them off but will go back with Neem to kill the crawlers. Scale insects will suck plant juices on many different genera of woody plants and each one has a bit different lifecycle with different vulnerable stages, so a positive id is critical. Often you notice the sooty mold that grows on the sticky sweet excrement of the pest. The sooty mold is not pathogenic but can cut down on the photosynthetic ability of the plant. If you grow

diseases to start around July 4th so make sure your plants are staked, mulched to prevent soil splash up and pruned for good air circulation! There are two that are problematic, early blight and Septoria leafspot and both show up every year to some extent. Rainy years are worse than dry years.

is a new disease in the northeast that threatens all ornamental and native beeches. The disease, caused by a microscopic worm called a nematode, causes a foliar blight, defoliation and death of trees. Symptoms in the leaves include striping, curling, and/or leathery texture of the foliage