

MIDDLE TN NURSERY EXTENSION

nursery e-news



CHECK TREES FOR ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

- The invasive Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) severely damages maples and other hardwood trees and leads to tree death.
- To date, ALB has not been found in TN. The closest populations are in South Carolina and eradication efforts are ongoing.
- Visit: [APHIS site on ALB](#) for details on signs to look for on trees and updated information.

BOX TREE MOTH FOUND IN VIRGINIA

You're not having déjà vu; last month's newsletter reported box tree moth (BTM) being found for the first time in West Virginia. Now it's in Virginia.

BTM (*Cydalima perspectalis*) larvae feed on leaves and bark of boxwoods, potentially causing complete defoliation and plant death. The caterpillars are lime-green with black linear stripes, small and difficult to detect in early stages, often blending in with foliage. Infestations may not be noticeable until significant damage has occurred. Boxwood are the primary host plant but they also feed on holly and burning bush.

What to Look For:

- Chewed or missing leaves
- Caterpillars
- Webbing on or inside the plant
- Bark stripping in advanced stages

If Have Suspected Sample:

Contact: Anni Self, TDA Plant Certification Administrator, (Anni.Self@tn.gov) or your TDA nursery inspector.

Right: Boxwood shrub dying from significant feeding damage from BTM larvae (Photo: Mafalda Weldon).



Left: Feeding damage from early instar larvae (L) and mature larvae (R) of BTM (Photos: Abigail Wiesner).

TSU fact sheet on BTM

Click link above or scan QR code:



For management info, please refer to the June newsletter. Contact kbarrios@tnstate.edu for previous newsletters.

PHYTOPHTHORA ROOT ROT

Recent and current environmental conditions (i.e., heavy rainfall, warm temp.'s and high humidity) have been right for Phytophthora root and crown rot disease to develop. Once above ground symptoms are seen, it's generally too late to treat individual plants. General plant symptoms include:

- below ground: cinnamon to black colored roots lacking white tips, root sloughing and a lack of fine, feeder roots
- above ground: wilting, yellowing/dying leaves, branch death and plant death
- Symptoms can vary by host plant. A lab diagnosis is the ultimate way to confirm the presence of Phytophthora.

For more info, including management visit: [Phytophthora Factsheet](#) and [Spanish Version](#)



Healthy, pale avocado root (bottom) compared with black feeder roots killed by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Photo: David Rosen

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ELM ZIGZAG SAWFLY

- The elm zigzag sawfly was reported in Washington County, TN this year and confirmed as the first report of this invasive pest of elms in TN.
- The EZS has expanded its geographical range since 2021 when it was first detected in the US; see map at right.

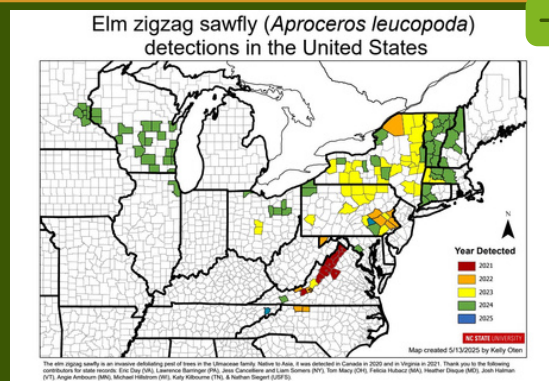
As the name indicates, EZS larvae feed exclusively on the leaves of elm trees (*Ulmus* spp.). Smaller larvae create a characteristic zigzag pattern in leaves, while older larvae feed more broadly on leaf tissue, leaving behind only the midrib. As this pest is relatively new, very little information is available on the impact of EZS in the Southeastern US. However, severe feeding damage from larvae can result in complete defoliation of trees. Heavy defoliation over multiple years can weaken trees, increasing stress. Stressed trees attract other pests, like dutch elm disease, and can result in tree mortality.



For more info visit:

[Map Source](#) (link)

- [TN Dept. of Ag. Site on EZS](#)
- or contact Dr. Midhula Gireesh (mgireesh@utk.edu), Asst. Prof & Extension Specialist, Dept. of Entomology & Plant Pathology, UT



Leaf Damage



Tree Defoliation



Eggs



Larvae



Cocoon



Adult



The elm zigzag sawfly has four distinct life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Adults EZS are small (7-8 mm), black and shiny with pale yellow legs and darkly colored wings. Only female EZS has been detected, reproducing by having the ability to lay viable eggs without mating. Elm zigzag sawfly have multiple generations per year. Adults lay from 7-49 eggs along the edges of elm leaves. After 4-8 days, the larvae emerge from eggs and begin to feed. They pupate in cocoons which are net-like, loosely woven, typically attached to leaves, or dense solid-walled, often found in leaf litter or soil.

Elm zigzag sawfly larvae could easily be misdiagnosed as caterpillars of butterflies and moths. Elm zigzag sawfly larvae are pale green with a black stripe on their heads and black or brown T-shaped markings on their legs. Due to its small size and the pale green colour, the larvae can easily blend into the leaf, and require careful inspection.

Effective management strategies for EZS are unknown as this is a newly introduced pest. However physical control, such as hand-picking larvae or using a high-pressure water spray to dislodge larvae from leaves, should work for mild infestation.

IR-4 SURVEY: PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Link: [Grower & Extension Needs Survey](#)

The survey will help prioritize research benefitting the nursery industry.

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