

TSU NURSERY NEWS TO USE

ISSUE 12
APRIL 1, 2020



GRANULATE AMBROSIA BEETLES IN FLIGHT! While we're not yet at peak activity, it's time to start applying protective sprays. Both bifenthrin and permethrin insecticides should give 7 - 10 days of control, however, be prepared to make repeat applications to protect susceptible trees during peak flight times. The chance of a tree surviving is much higher if treatment is made before the plant is attacked and inoculated with the ambrosia fungus. A surfactant or sticker will provide longer protection. Systemic products are ineffective because the beetles do not feed on vascular tissue. For more information, please contact adismuk1@tnstate.edu or kaddesso@tnstate.edu. The University of Georgia has developed a multi-institutional ambrosia beetle survey to assess the impact on tree-producing stakeholders. Please assist by completing the survey at https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ojFgygi2BFmQ1n.

***Cydalima perspectalis*, BOX TREE MOTH (BTM).** Native to Asia, box tree moth is an invasive pest that causes severe damage to Buxus species. BTM was detected in Germany and the Netherlands in 2006. It is believed to have arrived in Europe in a shipment of boxwoods from Asia. It has continued to spread and is now confirmed in over 30 EU countries. BTM was detected in two locations in Toronto, Canada in 2018. If established, BTM could spread naturally into the USA, posing a serious risk to Tennessee's boxwood industry. ***BTM IS NOT CURRENTLY IN THE USA!!** BTM are most recognizable as larvae found feeding within the plant. On hatching, larvae are greenish yellow in color with a shiny black head. As they mature, they become more greenish and develop a striking pattern of thick black and thin white stripes along the length of the body. Larvae feed principally on leaves but may also attack the bark, weakening plants in nonnative regions. Younger larvae feed on lower surfaces of the leaves only, leaving the upper epidermis intact. Older larvae feed inside the webbing and skeletonize the leaves, leaving only the midribs, and occasionally the outer margin intact. BTM is a strong flier and has the potential to disperse up to seven miles per year. Dense populations can disfigure and defoliate plants quickly, reducing their value. A severe infestation can result in plant death. Signs and symptoms on the plant may include. Presence of webbing, frass (excrement) and molted black head capsules may be apparent in and around infested plants. The defoliation and dieback are unsightly, and reduce the value of the plants.



In cooperation with TDA, the TSU NRC will begin monitoring this year for BTM. If you see any of these signs or symptoms on boxwood, please contact adismuk1@tnstate.edu or kaddesso@tnstate.edu.



DON'T BE A STICK IN THE MUD

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THURSDAY (9/10): 9am - 5pm
FRIDAY (9/11): 9:30am - 2pm



Don't forget about plastic recycling program at the TSU Nursery Research Center. The program began in 2010 and was recognized in 2015 as the Tennessee Recycling Coalitions "Recycler of the Year" for recycling approximately 40,000 pounds of polyethylene plastic annually.

The recycling program is available to all growers in Tennessee, free of charge. For more information, please contact the NRC Director [Dr. Nick Gawal](mailto:Dr.NickGawal@Tnstate.edu) at 931-815-5140 or ngawal@Tnstate.edu.

Important Announcement on H2 Visas. The H2 program is essential to the economy and food security of the United States and is a national security priority. The Department of State will continue processing H2 cases as much as possible, as permitted by post resources and local government restrictions. Secretary Pompeo has authorized the expansion of categories of H2 visa applicants whose applications can be adjudicated without a face-to-face interview. Consular officers can now waive the visa interview requirement for first time and returning H2 applicants who have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility. This expansion also increases the period in which returning workers may qualify for an interview waiver. If a worker is applying for the same visa classification as the previous visa, and did not receive a waiver of ineligibility at last application, and whose previous visas expired in the last 48 months, they do not need to be interviewed in-person. It's expected that the vast majority of qualified H2 applicants will now be adjudicated without an interview. For more information, please visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/important-announcement-on-h2-visas.html>.



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