

Bugs and Blights for Master Gardeners 5/3/2020

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Bored? Here is a Calibrachoa to bring a little cheer to the those of us staying place bound till further notice. As I said before...I will stay in place for my family and for care givers who do not need another patient. (Oh, and my cranky cat that no one will want). Goodness knows I have enough weeds, house projects, and slides to label, to keep me busy. Find creative ways to meet social needs while staying socially distant.



Elderberry borer are emerging from infested canes now that flowers emerge in late April and may be present from April thru June. The female is pictured above. Males have all red elytra. Very handsome but can cause significant damage to elderberry. They are especially fond of *Sambucus* 'Black lace'. According to Richie Steffen, (Miller Garden) tried to prune below the wilting tips but it left plants less than lovely so now they coppice the plants in fall which removes infested canes.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hosts-pests-landscape-plants/elderberry-sambucus-borer>



Ellychnia, a predatory beetle related to lightning bugs. Often found along woodland edges or where willows are abundant. (Harmless unless you are a small bug). See PNW Insects by Dr. Merrill Peterson. These are day active relatives of lightning beetles, but they do not produce light; instead they use chemical signals. Larvae live in rotting logs.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellychnia>



Root weevil larvae are bright-white, C-shaped, legless larvae with brown heads and short stiff bristles. They drop onto, the soil, and are quite visible, when shaken out of weedy sod. (Stiff orangish wireworms may also be seen, but neither are in high numbers in my garden.) The weeds outnumber them all.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/commo/landscape-root-weevil>



Eggs of the **imported currantworm** are white and laid along the veins like little sausages. Eggs hatch and at first the new larvae scrape off tissue leaving small brown patches clustered in the center of the innermost, low foliage. (Eggs were present in early May). I picked 3 leaves infested with sawflies off my black currant today (5/3/2020)

See the Article at BB-2011-July (1) for photos of early damage and young larvae.

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2053/2013/04/BB-2011-July.pdf>



Imported currantworm defoliates currants leaving only the midrib and some major veins. If you missed the early stages of damage, the plant will be consumed quickly. Look now for small holes in a few leaves with larvae so tiny they are barely visible. There will be a second generation in June so stay vigilant. If you have currant leaves that are being eaten from the edge, look for leaf-green larvae curled along the leaf-edge, then you have the currantworm. A different sawfly with multiple generations into fall. Hortsense

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=2&PlantDefId=69&ProblemId=173>



Yellow rust on some raspberry varieties. Damage is minimal on single plants that are scattered about the landscape. I am not sure how significant it is in dense rows of plants. Pustules are also on the underside of the leaves. Check: Hortsense: raspberry disease, yellow rust and for lifecycle (and not pesticide) details

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/raspberry-rubus-spp-yellow-rust>



Burr knot on apple. Large and small galls with clustered pointy root buds or root initials. Does not cause significant damage to apple unless they become so abundant that they girdle the tree. The burr knots start out as smooth orange bulges on stems or branches that develop into **adventitious roots**. These tumor-like bulges are actually masses of tiny roots that somehow ended up growing in the aboveground portion of a tree. Hortsense

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=3&PlantDefId=59&ProblemId=3>