

Bugs and Blights for Master Gardeners – May 12,2020

Sharon J. Collman, WSU Extension



Carpenter ant, winged adults are now starting to emerge. Queen and males (Left) and three sizes of worker ants (Right). The ants are predators feeding on honeydew and insects in the area. So out in the woods (old stumps, logs, rotting center of trees. A single ant doesn't mean there is a colony in the home, but large numbers of flying ants does.

https://research.libraries.wsu.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/2376/8162/eb0818_1993.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y



Look for sawdust around homes or wood structures; sometimes most visible when caught in spider webs. The ants don't eat the wood but excavate galleries in the wood for rearing ants from egg to adults. They often will set up satellite colonies in warm areas in homes. There is no ant as large as a carpenter ant (black and 2/3").



There are several woolly adelgids that settle on conifers. **The hemlock woolly adelgid** settles on hemlocks only. On this host damage is minimal and there are many biological control agents such as lacewings, syrphid flies, parasitoids & ladybug larvae in adelgid clothing. The dark body is covered waxy fluff. <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hosts-pests-landscape-plants/hemlock-tsuga-hemlock-woolly-adelgid>



Balsam woolly adelgid is harder to detect but easy to identify by the the puffy swellings around nodes and tips. The eggs are laid under white waxy covering . To detect vulnerable little crawlers scrape off some needles and wrap double stick tape around the bare spot to trap tiny crawlers. Several generations/year. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2_043667.pdf



Apple anthracnose sharp cracks in the bark of apple and fiddle-strings.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/apple-malus-spp-anthracnose-bulls-eye-rot>



Alder flea beetles defoliated alders last year. In spring, adults emerge from aggregating masses in the leaf litter. They mate and lay clusters of pale yellow eggs on the upper leaf surface. When eggs hatch, the black larvae skeletonize the upper leaf surface, leaving little black poops behind. A similar willow flea beetle feeds on willows. It is rare for the infestations to do serious injury or to last more than one year.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hots-pests-landscape-plants/alder-alnus-flea-beetle>



Do you see the **azalea sawfly**? The longer details are in an MG forum note.



Little poops on the leaf underlying feeding larvae. Look up. The sawfly is curved along the right edge of the leaf in the top picture.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hots-pests-landscape-plants/azalea-rhododendron-azalea-sawfly>



Daylily gall midge affects many of the early flowering daylilies. Symptoms include swollen buds that are bigger than normal blossom buds. Tissue will be mottled and distorted with little jumping maggots deep in the bud.

https://www.daylilies.org/ahs_dictionary/gallmidge.html

