Check out the Newly Expanded Woody Plants Disease Guide!

Great news! A group led by Dr. Nicole Ward, UK plant pathologist, has recently published a new and expanded version of the *Woody Plant Disease Management Guide for Nurseries and Landscapes*.

The publication includes a **table of approved fungicides** for woody ornamentals and descriptions of best management practices for nurseries and landscapes. Common diseases of specific plants are listed, as well as suggested **management practices** for each. Examples of **disease-resistant** species or cultivars are also provided for some diseases.

The publication is available here as an attachment or through this link.

Boxwood Psyllids Begin Feeding

Boxwood psyllid nymphs have already begun feeding in Lexington. These common insects cause **leaf-curling** on new foliage of boxwoods and secrete unsightly white **waxy material**. Damage is primarily aesthetic and usually poses little threat to plant health.

If an insecticide spray is used, it should be used during the **time of leaf expansion**. When leaves become curled, they enclose the feeding nymphs and can protect the insects from contact insecticides.

Boxwood psyllid nymphs are tiny insects (about 1-2 mm in length).

Boxwood psyllids cause leaf-cupping or curling.

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden

Azalea Lace Bug

It's a good time to start watching for azalea lace bug on the undersides of azalea foliage.

These insects have multiple generations, so they can be problematic from **spring until fall**. However, it is best to target populations in the spring before they reach high levels.

In the landscape, they tend to be more **problematic in sunny, exposed locations** and are less problematic when plants are used in an understory planting.

Azalea lace bug feeding causes leaves to become **stippled or bleached** and can even lead to premature leaf drop. **Turn over stippled leaves** to find the insects and their black excrement, which resembles tiny tar spots. Adults have a lace-like appearance, and nymphs are black and white with black spines.

Azalea lace bug nymphs (left), adult (right), and black fecal spots.

Photos: James L. Castner, University of Florida

Honeylocust plant bug nymph (left) and adult (right).

Photo: Dan Herms

Honeylocust Plant Bug and Honeylocust Spider Mite

Other common pests to start scouting for include the honeylocust plant bug and the honeylocust spider mite. I am including them together because they can be **monitored simultaneously** by tapping honeylocust tree branches over a white sheet of paper, which should collect the dislodged pests.

Honeylocust plant bug nymphs emerge and begin feeding in the spring around the time of bud break. Their feeding on developing buds and young leaves causes **distorted growth** and necrosis. These insects seem to be particularly problematic on yellow-leaved cultivars.

Honeylocust spider mite is difficult to see with the naked eye. On a sheet of paper, it will appear as a tiny moving speck that is yellow to green in appearance. Populations can build rapidly during hot weather. Symptoms of damage include **bronzing foliage** and premature leaf drop.

When using a chemical to control mite pests, be sure the product is labeled for mites. Some insecticides may actually worsen mite infestations.

Honeylocust spider mites

Photo: Utah State University Cooperative Extension Service

Always Read and Follow Label Directions for Safe Use of Any Pesticide!

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