

## UConn Diagnostic Summary for July 2018

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**Frequent reports:** Fall webworm, Scarabidae beetles (Oriental, Asiatic, June, Japanese, etc), cedar-apple rust, powdery mildew on cucurbits, lily leaf beetle, tobacco budworm (on petunia and geranium), fungal leaf spots of tomato and other plants, black rot of grape, blossom end rot of tomato, anthracnose diseases.

### **Alerts and News:**

**Cucurbit downy mildew**, a serious disease has been reported in Massachusetts as of this week. No reports in Connecticut so far but it's probably here. The pathogen, *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*, does not overwinter in the north so it tends to arrive later in the season. Symptoms and signs include angular leaf spots and dark sporulation of the pathogen on the lower surface of the leaves in association with the leaf spots. Leaf spots enlarge and coalesce, resulting in browning and death of entire leaves and later the whole plant. More information and images: [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/managing\\_cucurbit\\_downy\\_mildew\\_in\\_your\\_garden](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/managing_cucurbit_downy_mildew_in_your_garden)

**New this month:** More topics, including those highlighted in images, are hyperlinked to additional information.

**Disease of the Month: Black rot of grape** (*Guignardia bidwellii*) was identified on samples in the UConn lab and Master Gardener clinics in Fairfield and Middlesex Counties in July. This is one of the most serious diseases of grape in the northeast. Infections and symptoms occur on leaves, fruit and green shoot tissue. Leaf spots and rotting fruit have numerous black fungal fruiting bodies. More information: [Disease Control in Backyard Grapes](#)



Photos from left: Black rot of grape symptoms on leaves and fruit (Purdue University photos).

**Arthropod of the Month: Click beetles** (family Elateridae) were identified this month at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center and in New Haven County and are known for their ability to produce a 'click' as described here from Wikipedia "[A spine on the prosternum can be snapped into a corresponding notch on the mesosternum, producing a violent "click" that can bounce the beetle into the air.](#)<sup>[2]</sup> Clicking is mainly used to avoid predation, although it is also useful when the beetle is on its back and needs to right itself." One of the most striking is the eyed elater which looks like it has large eyes on its thorax in an effort to scare off predators by mimicking a larger (and either scarier or less appetizing) animal.



The eyed elater click beetle and an iridescent species (photos from bugguide.net and pestWiki, respectively).

**Plant of the Month: Virginia mountain mint** (*Pycnanthemum virginianum.*), is a wildflower native to the eastern United States. It prefers moist areas and is attractive to butterflies, bumble bees, honeybees and native bees, along with other beneficial insects. It was identified in Litchfield County this month.



Virginia mountain mint leaves and flowers from <https://www.wildflower.org>

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## Reports by Location

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### UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory/Home & Garden Education Center

#### Arthropods on plants

Cross-striped cabbageworm on cabbage  
 Borer in black knot on plum  
 Fall webworm on blueberry, beech  
 Parsleyworm on dill  
 Stink bug nymphs on tomato  
 Flea beetle injury on tomato  
 Eastern tent caterpillar on apple  
[Rudbeckia psyllid](#) injury (pictured below, J. Allen photo)



Whitefly on spicebush  
 Cottony maple scale on cherry  
 Milkweed tussock moth caterpillars (2)  
 Spider egg masses on Japanese knotweed  
 Mealybug on bean (suspected)  
 Tumbling flower beetle on elderberry  
 Japanese beetle on rose  
 Eriophyid mites on river birch  
 Aphids on lettuce  
 Two-spotted spider mite on bean  
 Thrips on Allium, pepper  
 Aphids on birch  
 Squash bug eggs on zucchini  
 Squash vine borer on pumpkin  
 Ambush bug on tomato  
 Blackberry psyllid (suspected from image)



Milkweed bug nymph on cucurbit  
 Colorado potato beetle larvae  
 Oriental fruit moth larva in peach fruit  
 Clear wing moth on strawberry  
 Asiatic garden beetles  
 Tobacco hornworm  
 Crowned slug moth caterpillar on cabbage  
 Garden fleahopper on Nepeta (catnip)

**Arthropods - other**

Elateridae  
 Pill bugs  
 Hickory tussock moth caterpillar  
 Prionid beetle  
 Leafhopper-hunting wasp  
 Green June bug  
 Carpet beetle larva  
 Packard's lichen moth  
 Western conifer seed bug  
 Mosquito larvae  
 Click beetle  
 Pandora sphinx moth  
 Stag beetle  
 Newly molted dragonfly

**Plant Diseases**

Rhizoctonia root/crown rot on lavender, Dahlia, Allium,  
 Pachysandra (Japanese), Coreopsis  
 Rhizoctonia web blight on aster  
 Black root rot on phlox (2)  
 Black knot on plum  
 Pestalotiopsis leaf blight on Rhododendron  
 Pestalotiopsis leaf spot on Hypericum  
 Fusarium root rot on Echinacea 'Flamenco'  
 Fusarium wilt/rot on Sedum 'Autumn Joy'  
 Phomopsis dieback on privet  
 Early blight on tomato (Suspected from image)  
 Oak leaf blister  
 Volutella blight on boxwood (3)  
 Botrytis gray mold on strawberry  
 Mycosphaerella leaf spot on strawberry  
 Anthracnose on cucumber  
 Septoria leaf spot on Pachysandra procumbens  
 Pyricularia leaf spot on Hakonechloa  
 Pythium root rot on Hakonechloa  
 Botryosphaeria on boxwood (3), holly, azalea  
 Fusarium on boxwood  
 Black rot of grape  
 Dutch elm disease on American elm  
 Gymnosporangium rust on apple, crabapple  
[Rose rosette virus on rose](#) (pictured below with 'witches  
 brown and abnormal flowers on left of the plant, J. Allen)



Phytophthora root rot on lavender, Heucherella  
 Bacterial wilt on winter squash, zucchini  
 Frog-eye leaf spot of apple  
 Apple scab on crabapple  
 Unidentified dieback on azalea, rhododendron  
 Pythium root rot on Miscanthus  
[Bacterial leaf spot](#) on Echinacea, fern, Salvia, Alchemilla,  
 Nepeta, vinca



J. Allen photo

Stagonospora leaf spot on Pennisetum  
 Impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) on staghorn fern

**Plant ID**

*Hemerocallis* sp.  
 Nightshade  
 Tall blue lettuce  
 Wild radish  
 Redroot pigweed  
 Wineberry  
 Purslane  
 Purple loosestrife  
 Virginia creeper (2)  
 Moss  
 Willow  
 Jade plant  
 Hydrangea macrophylla  
 Mulberry  
 Oriental bittersweet  
 Poison ivy  
 Ground ivy (creeping Charlie)  
 Enchanter's nightshade  
 Monarda

**Cultural Problems**

Nutrient toxicity in greenhouse tomato  
 Abiotic leaf discoloration on Rudbeckia, Echinacea  
 High ammonium nitrogen and high pH in mums  
 Winter injury on boxwood (suspected)  
 Suspected cold temperature injury on Kousa dogwood  
 Abiotic leaf scorch on climbing hydrangea  
 Iron deficiency in *Vinca minor*  
 Suspected nutrient deficiency in flowering dogwood  
 Blossom end rot of tomato  
 Captan injury to apple fruit (suspected)  
 Blotchy ripening (physiological mottling) of greenhouse  
 tomato  
 Suspected spray injury on marigold and zinnia

**Other**

Polymer crystals in lawn  
 Stinkhorn fungus in garden

## Fairfield County (submitted by Thomas MacGregor)

**Arthropods on Plants:** Fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea*, on apple, blueberry, and Kousa dogwood; hornworm, *Manduca quinquemaculata*, on tomato; leafminer on clematis; insect damage on coneflower; tent caterpillars on dogwood; giant root borer, *Prionus sp.*, in garden; [chinch bugs in turf](#); Asiatic garden beetles on marigolds and geraniums; Asiatic garden beetles and slugs on coneflower; tobacco budworm caterpillar on petunias; plum curculio, *Conotrachelus nenuphar*, with gummosis and hemlock woolly adelgid, *Adelges tsugae*.



Chinch bug damage to a lawn (Univ. of Illinois) and close-up of a nymph (left with short wing pads) and adult chinch bug (from Turf Magazine).

**Arthropods (other):** eastern cicada killer; polyphemus moth, *Antheraea polyphemus*; anobiid powderpost beetles, green June beetle, *Cotinus nitida*; rove beetle; ichneumon wasp; blue mud wasp; grass carrying wasp; ant; and unicorn caterpillar moth.

**Plant Diseases:** black rot on grapes; *Septoria* leaf spot on tomato; *Alternaria* on tomato; cedar-apple rust (2), *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*; powdery mildew on squash; *Cercospora* leaf spot on Rhododendron; cucurbit scab; *Pestalotiopsis funerea* on arborvitae; clematis wilt; geranium fungal infection; and *Stigmata* needlecast on blue spruce.

**Plant ID:** Mile-a-minute vine, *Persicaria perfoliata* in Brookfield (reported); Virginia creeper; *Hibiscus moscheutos*; *Hibiscus syriacus*; purslane, *Portulaca oleracea*; Indian pipe plant, *Monotropa uniflora*; pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*; Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus* (3); pignut hickory, *Carya glabra*; Eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*; bee balm; ginkgo; black cherry; sugar maple; American beech, *Fagus grandifolia*; *Prunella*; mugwort, *Artemisia sp.*; crabapple; stilt grass, *Microstegium vimineum* (2); Bishop's weed, *Aegopodium podagraria*; clearweed, *Pilea pumila*; black elderberry; cow parsnip; **jewelweed**; red root pigweed, *Amaranthus retroflexus*; willow; goldenrod; and *Hepatica*.



Jewelweed in flower

([https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens\\_capensis.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens_capensis.shtml))

**Cultural:** pond scum; catfacing on tomato; Hosta leaf scorch; spring annuals early death; tomato blossom end rot; tomato physiological leaf curl (2).

**Other:** sapsucker damage on apple tree; deer (2).

## Hartford County (no report)

## Litchfield County (submitted by Michelle Winkler)

### **Arthropods on Plants**

Elderberry borer

[Brown hooded owlet moth caterpillar](#) (Pamm Cooper, UConn)



Japanese beetle damage

June bug on vegetable plants

Fall webworms

### **Plant Diseases**

Powdery mildew on cucumber and dahlia

### **Plant ID**

Liverwort

Virginia mountain mint

Elephant garlic

### **Cultural**

Drought damage on kousa dogwood

## Middlesex County (submitted by Gail Reynolds)

### **Insects and Arthropods on Plants**

Cranberry fruitworm in blueberry

[Phylloxera leaf gall on grape](#)



Image: Phylloxera galls with sporulation of grape downy mildew (whitish covering). Photo: Casey Lambert, UConn

Sawfly larvae on dogwood

Aphids on dogwood

Scale insects on lime tree

Tobacco budworm on geranium

Dagger moth caterpillars on oak

Woolly adelgid on hemlock

Fall webworm on dogwood

### **Insects and Arthropods (other)**

Black cutworm

Definite tussock moth caterpillar

Saltmarsh moth caterpillar

Virginia tiger moth caterpillar

Gypsy moth male

Lily leaf beetle

Fall webworm caterpillar

June beetle

### **Plant Diseases**

Wilt of cucumber

Cedar-apple rust

Needlecast of white pine

Suspected Verticillium wilt of raspberry

Fungal spot on tomato leaves

Black rot of grape

### **Plant and Weed ID**

Green ash

Japanese stiltgrass

Wild lettuce (2)

Common violet

Mugwort

Horseweed

Dodder

Many "not giant hogweed"

### **Cultural**

Oak mortality most likely due to several years of defoliation and drought

[Blossom end rot on tomatoes](#)



Redbud mortality likely due to planting in direct sun

Tomato flower loss due to heat

Dahlia under-watering

### **Other**

Vole root damage on mountain laurel

Cowbird egg



## New Haven County (submitted by Jude Hsiang)

### **Arthropods on Plants:**

Tomato hornworm on tomato plant  
*Lilioceris lili*, Scarlet lily beetle on lily  
*Tetraopes tetraphthalmus*, red milkweed beetle on milkweed

### **Arthropods, other:**

*Boisea trivittata*, Boxelder bug  
*Elateridae*, Click beetle  
*Lucanidae*, Stag beetle

### **Plant Disease:**

Sooty mold on *Ficus* sp  
Septoria leaf spot on tomato  
Basil leaf spot on *Ocimum basilicum*  
Anthracnose on *Cornus florida*  
Anthracnose on maple, *Acer* sp.



Rhizosphaera needlecast on spruce, *Picea* sp.  
Powdery mildew and blossom rot on zucchini  
*Botrytis* on peony  
*Chrysomyxa* rust on *Rhododendron* sp.

### **Plant and Weed ID:**

*Juniperus virginiana*, Eastern red cedar  
*Abutilon theophrasti*, Velvet leaf  
*Ocimum basilicum*, basil

*Alliaria petiolata*, garlic mustard  
*Betula albosinensis*, var., Chinese red birch  
*Centaurea maculosa*, spotted knapweed  
*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, porcelain berry  
(photo above right from [Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin](#))



*Prunus serotina*, black cherry  
*Viburnum acerfolium*, maple leaf viburnum  
*Solidago* sp., golden rod  
*Lonicera morrowii*, Morrow's honeysuckle  
*Morus alba*, white mulberry  
*Acanthus spinosa*, spiny bear's britches  
*Ilex glabra*, inkberry  
*Euonymus japonicus*, euonymus, variegated  
*Apocynum cannabinum*, hemp dogbane or Indian hemp  
*Spiraea japonica*, Japanese meadowsweet  
*Robinia pseudoacacia*, black locust  
*Smilax* sp, greenbrier  
*Lonicera* sp, honeysuckle  
*Forsythia* sp, forsythia  
*Fallopia japonica*, Japanese knotweed, variegated  
*Malus*, crabapple

### **Other:**

ID mushroom the dog ate – referred to CAES, COMA or Valley Mycological society

## New London County (submitted by Paul Armond)

### **Arthropods on plants**

Oriental beetle  
Squash beetle  
Western flower thrips  
Gypsy moths  
Grapevine beetle  
Fir tussock moth caterpillar  
Willow leaf beetle larvae

### **Other Arthropods**

Male eastern Dobsonfly (pictured right, J. Allen)  
Sarcophagid fly

### **Plant Disease**

Cedar-apple rust

### **Plant ID**

*Houttuynia cordata*

### *Solanum dulcamara*



**Tolland County** (no report)

**Windham County** (no report)

**Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford** (no report)

