

Eastern NC Nursery News

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Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Update

Crapemyrtle bark scale (seen above) has been reported in at least 15 counties in North Carolina according to EDDMapS (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System) that is part of the Bugwood Team programs at University of Georgia). I suspect that they can be found in many more counties than this. This piercing-sucking insect takes valuable food (sugar) from plants and results in reduced growth and flowering while also depositing honeydew on branches and understory surfaces where sooty mold then grows.

So far I have seen this pest as mainly a landscape issue and I have not found it in any nursery settings to date. I suspect this is due to insect management plans in place for other crapemyrtle pests that are preventing population establishment in nursery settings. However, in the right scenario it is possible for this pest to establish populations in nursery production.

Since this insect will definitely continue to have an effect on crapemyrtles in the landscape and may result in reduced demand for nursery stock, it is important to keep up to date on management of this pest to prevent spread and help landscape managers deal with it. In our area, early to late spring (late March to mid-May) will be the best time depending on product choice to make treatment applications). I have included some links below to detailed references.

-References

<https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2020/10/EHT-146.pdf>

<https://lpress.clemson.edu/publication/managing-crapemyrtle-bark-scale-infestations-in-urban-landscapes-and-nurseries/>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/crapemyrtle-bark-scale/>

Plan Now for Red-Headed Flea Beetle (RHFB) Management in 2023



The image above is a RHFB larva and a reminder that a key in management of high populations of this pest is to target larvae well before they pupate to adults. If you are a grower that has had a difficult time managing the adult stage of this pest and have not put in place practices to target larvae, I can help you put together a management plan. There are multiple product options and techniques available for managing both larvae and adults. Now is the time to start thinking about preventing many of next years adults by targeting larvae in the late winter to early spring that will hatch from eggs laid in late October to November.

Below are some links to a few articles of mine for reference. Now is the time to plan to reduce damage to plants you plan to have ready for sale from June through October 2023. Give me a call, text, or email and we can start planning now.

<https://wilson.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/10/red-headed-flea-beetle-management-in-container-nursery-production/>

<https://wilson.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/12/topdressing-granular-imidacloprid-to-reduce-red-headed-flea-beetle-injury/>

<https://wilson.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/10/incorporating-granular-imidacloprid-in-ornamental-container-nursery-substrate-to-reduce-red-headed-flea-beetle-injury/>

Winter Protection

It has been about 5 years since we have had severe low winter temperatures in eastern NC that have resulted in significant losses to nursery grown ornamental plants. Don't get complacent in your winter protection practices. Make sure to cover plants that need protection with adequate winter protection thermal blankets and/or white poly if they are not able to be protected in overwintering houses. Although shade cloth may be easier to deploy over plants and allows water and air circulation it does little or nothing to help prevent cold injury to sensitive plants. Full details can be found in this publication on [Preparing Nursery Plants for Winter](#).

February 9, 2023 Eastern NC Nursery Conference

Save the date of February 9, 2023 for the Eastern NC Nursery Conference to be held in Wilson, NC at the Agricultural Center. Topics and speakers are listed below:

-Insect Pest Management based on Growing Degree Days, Tim Waller-Rutgers Extension
-Nursery Weed Management (Container and Field), Joe Neal-NC State Extension
-Nursery Water Quality, Substrates, and Plant Nutrition, Anthony LeBude-NC State Extension

Registration information will be available in early December 2022.

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