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The Advisor

A York – Poquoson Newsletter for Professional Horticulturists And Workers in the Green Industry

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Jack Fedder
Editor

2014/2015 Calendar of Events - OK

Jan 13-17	**Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course**. Newport News Marriott at City Center. For more information see: www.mahsc.org
Jan 13-17	**2014 GREEN & GROWIN TRADE SHOW**. *Greensboro Coliseum & The Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro NC. For more information see:* http://ncnla.memberclicks.net/green---growin-trade-show
Jan 27-30	**VA Turfgrass Council. Fredericksburg, Va**. Registration and Program information is available at: http://vaturf.org/events.html
Feb 12-14	**Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association Symposium/Winter Short Course 2014.** Massey Conference Center, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. For more information see: http://www.cvnla.org/short-course.htm
Feb 20	**PIEDMONT LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SEMINAR.** Paramount Theater, Charlottesville. For more information see: http://piedmontlandscape.org/seminar.html
Feb 27	**PIEDMONT NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM.** Albemarle County Office Bldg, Charlottesville. For more information see: sstimart@albemarle.org
March 6	**ROANOKE TREE CARE WORKSHOP - Trees, The Dirty Truth** at Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke. For more information see: www.treesvirginia.org

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PLANT OF THE MONTH:
Japanese Rose

Kerria japonica

By Ginny Rosekranz

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/ipmnet/12Nov02L.pdf

Kerria japonica, Japanese rose, is a deciduous shrub that grows 3-6 feet tall and 6-9 feet wide. The branches arch up and out and are covered with bright green, slender leaves that are arranged alternately on the stem and turn yellow in the fall. The plant does produce suckers which expands the size of the plant. The green stems provide winter interest. The 1-1½ inch flowers are bright yellow and 5-petaled. Plants bloom in the early spring with some single flowers throughout the summer. flowers throughout the summer. *Kerria japonica* does best if planted in shady areas with loamy, well drained soils. Once established, *Kerria japonica* is drought tolerant.

***Kerria japonica* 'Pleniflora'**
Photo: Ginny Rosenkranz, UME

Cultivars include 'Pleniflora' which has golden double ball-shaped flowers, 'Golden Guinea' which has large 2-inch blooms and 'Picta' with green and white variegated foliage. Cold hardy from USDA zone4-9, *Kerria japonica* is useful as a solitary plant or as a mass planting in shady areas. Pests include leaf and twig blight, canker and root rot.

WEED OF THE MONTH

Lesser Celandine

Ranunculus ficaria L.,

By Chuck Schuster

http://extension.umd.edu/learn/weed-week-lesser-celandine

Lesser Celandine, Ranunculus ficaria L., also known as Fig Buttercup and pilewort, is a perennial flowering herbaceous plant that is in the process of flowering currently in many protected areas near some large groupings of buildings. This plant, native to Europe, was brought into the United States as an ornamental plant. This spring ephemeral arises early in the season, often near forest fringe areas, and creates a dense carpet thus preventing native ephemerals that include bloodroot, wind ginger and others from surviving. The dense growing pattern makes this plant an invasive weed that competes and eliminates native understory plant species. This plant may be misidentified as marsh marigold Caltha palustris, but it does not produce the tuber found on Lesser Celandine.

Control of Lesser Celandine is difficult. Manual methods can achieve success with small patches, but will take careful removal of all bulblets and removal from the site to either a landfill or other means of destruction. Chemical control can be achieved using glyphosate (Rodeo is labeled for wetland areas) products early in the season, Mid February to early April, as long as the temperature is 50 degrees Fahrenheit and no rain is anticipated within 12 hours. Waiting beyond this period of time may cause damage to many native wildflowers that share some sites. In this area it is recommended to wait until half the plants are in bloom to start control. In turf/lawn settings products containing at least two of these herbicides have been found effective. The herbicides to look for are MCPA, triclopyr, dicamba, that will remove many broadleaf weeds. Glyphosate products are non-selective and will destroy desired species. This process will take seven to fourteen days. No selective post emergent is currently labeled for this plant.

Lesser Celandine, Ranunculus ficaria L.,
Photo: Chuck Schuster, UME

BENEFICIAL OF THE MONTH

Checkered Beetles

By Paula Shrewsbury

https://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/ipmnet/13May10L.pdf

Checkered beetles like to eat wood boring beetles.

Checkered or Clerid beetles are in the family Cleridae and have a worldwide distribution with over 3,500 species. Checkered beetles can range in size from 3 – 24 mm and are elongate in shape, have short bristly hairs, and often bright-colored. Many species are predacious as adults and larvae. Checkered beetles live in a variety of habitats and have diverse feeding preferences. Two of the major groups of checkered beetles are referred to as “flower visitors” and “tree living species”. “Flower visitors” hang out on flowers (obviously) and feed on insects that visit flowers and pollen. The “tree living species” of checkered beetles are found on trees where they hide from their predators under bark and forage for their prey above and below the bark. The most common food of these checkered beetles is bark beetle and other wood boring beetle larvae and adults. We surely have enough bark beetles in our trees to keep these beetles happy for a long time! Adult checkered beetles tend to feed on adult boring beetles. Females of predaceous checkered beetles lay their eggs under the bark of trees. Checkered beetle larvae are predaceous and forage in the galleries of wood boring insects where they feed on bark beetle larvae. Some checkered beetles are very voracious feeders and are often key players in biological control.

Adult checkered beetle forages on the bark of trees where they feed on bark beetles.
Photo: Moser, USDA Forest

Larval stage of the predacious checkered beetle often found under bark feeding on boring beetle larvae.
Photo: G.J. Lenhard, LSU; ForestryImages.org

PEST OF THE MONTH

Boxwood Mite

Acari: Tetranychidae, *Eurytetranychus buxi* (Garmon)

By Eric Day, Manager, Insect Identification Laboratory

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ENTO-42/ENTO-42-pdf.pdf

Boxwood Mite, Acari: Tetranychidae, *Eurytetranychus buxi* (Garmon) overwinter as eggs on the undersides of leaves. Eggs hatch in April or May. It is one of the spider mites and is difficult to find even under a dissecting microscope. Eggshells and cast skins can be important clues but they are not as apparent as they are with other spider mites species.

Leaves of infested plants appear to be pinpricked or scratched with tiny white or yellow marks. The boxwood mite is one of the spider mites and is difficult to find even under a dissecting microscope. Eggshells and cast skins can be important clues but they are not as noticeable as they are with other spider mites species. Boxwood mites can be controlled with dormant oil applications in late winter or insecticidal soap sprays in May.

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this program, please call the York - Poquoson Extension Office at 890-4940 to discuss accommodations 10 days prior to the event.