

Of Bugs and Blights

TARGET THE PEST. PROTECT THE REST.

by Sharon J. Collman | WSU Snohomish County Extension



Photo provided by WSU.

CURRENT SAWFLIES

There are two sawflies that devour currants and gooseberries: imported currant worm (speckled), *Nematus ribesii*, and currant sawfly (green, *Pristiphora* sp.). Both began munching on foliage of *Ribes* sp. in April. The emergence of both from cocoons in the soil is finely timed to the emergence of the leaves of the plants; after all what's the point of emerging before there's food to eat. Plants in shaded or cooler locations may leaf out later than plants in warmer sites and so do the sawflies.

Imported currantworm lays tiny white sausage-shaped eggs along the veins on the undersides of the leaves. The first sign of hatching is a cluster of tiny brown patches which quickly disappear as the larvae chew through, creating clusters of tiny holes with a sawfly chewing along the inner edge of each hole. Holes widen, coalesce, and soon 1" long caterpillar-like larvae are lined up along the edges, eating their common way to the leaf veins. The green currant sawfly follows much the same pattern of damage.

Though the sawfly larvae have a caterpillar form, they are not Lepidoptera and are not susceptible to Bt. True Lepidoptera (moth and butterfly family) have 5 or fewer prolegs (the pudgy legs behind the three pair of true jointed legs; while sawflies have seven or more. Sawfly larvae also have a visible eyes on the head.

Usually by the time gardeners notice, the sawflies have dropped to the soil to pupate in papery cocoons in the soil, leaving the gardener to wonder how so much damage could occur "overnight". In mid-summer, black fly-like adults emerge to lay eggs of the second generation and the defoliation begins again. PNW Insect Management Handbook for more details. <http://insect.pnwhandbooks.org/small-fruit/currant-and-gooseberry/currant-and-gooseberry-imported-currant-worm>



Photo provided by WSU.

LILY LEAF BEETLE (*Lilioceris lili*) adults emerged in April and by now the damage (to lilies, fritillaria and cardiocrinum) and the bright red adult leaf beetles against the green foliage should be easy to spot. This year, WSDA and WSU Snohomish County Extension are collaborating on mapping sites in the Bellevue and surrounding areas to determine the extent of the spread of this beetle. We are seeking grant and local funding to purchase biological control agents that have been developed in the east and hope to release them by this time next year. For more detail on this pest go to <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS084E/FS084E.pdf> and to learn how you can help, or to report locations, email me at collmans@wsu.edu.

CORAL SPOT is a weak pathogen (*Tubercularia*) often found on maples, Siberian elms, Russian olive, grape and other trees or shrubs. Often the disease is able to colonize twigs or branches because they have been injured by winter freeze or sunscald. Maples with "coral spot" are often those in dry sites in full sun after a freeze. Plants sometimes are able to confine the disease or manage to recover. Prune out the damaged twigs, correct any issues such as planting in the wrong place.



The large white European chafer larva compared to European crane fly larvae. Photo provided by WSU.

EUROPEAN CHAFER has been found damaging turf in Olympia. It was previously known only from British Columbia. This new pest turns turf into a rug which can be lifted easily where the chafer larvae ate the roots. A double damage pest, emerging adults eat plant leaves and flowers. The large white larvae with brown head and well developed jaws will be found between the turf and soil. Crane fly larvae are also up surging this year in some counties. Todd Murray, Skamania County has more detailed information, <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS078E/FS078E.pdf>. Also check out WSU Publications online and the WSU Bookstore <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/> search by host, crop or plant for publications on pests, how to grow



Photo by Sharon Collman, WSU Snohomish.

RUST ON ROSES are especially common on wild rose species when weather has been wet. In this photo, the rust fungi penetrated the stem which swelled into a gall. The fungus here is shedding the spores in the hope that at least a few would make it to start more infections. A sudden gust of wind would distribute the spores to nearby roses, and a good breeze could carry them aloft for blocks or miles. Infections on leaves seem to appear angular from above and below, which might cause brief thought of bacteria (often described as angular). But in this case the abundant fuzzy rust spores give it away. Refer to Hortsense or the IPM Insect Management Manual.

FIND MORE INFORMATION at WSU Publicationis <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/>. Search by host or crop or plant for publications on pest management, and other topics of interest.



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SEQUOIA PITCH MOTH

(*Synanthedon sequoiae*) is a common pest in landscape pines as well as pines in forested lands. Despite the common name this pest doesn't attack sequoia. Infestations can be quite severe with marbled white and pinkish globs of pitch forming on the branches or trunk. If girdling occurs, the branches are susceptible to breakage and die. Caterpillars are living within the pitch mass. When ready to pupate, the adult wriggles its way toward an opening in the bark. Eventually, the pupa case wriggles all the way to the surface of the bark, and eventually the moth emerges leaving behind the pupa case. The moths emerge throughout the summer months and seek out wounds or unhealthy areas. Moths may be found flying all summer. This information informs us on how to reduce moth egg-laying: prune in fall when moths stop laying eggs. Pheromone traps are available for monitoring. Refer to the PNW Insect Management Handbook.

(From top left to bottom) Pitch masses on the trunk of lodgepole pine; larvae inside pitch mass that was removed; adult moth. Photo by Sharon Collman, WSU Snohomish.