

Entomology & Plant Pathology Weekly Review, May 1

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Weekly Review for May 1, 2024

This informal report by the Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology is a commentary on insects, diseases, and curiosities division staff encounter on a week-to-week basis. Comments and questions about this report are welcome and can be sent to your respective Inspector.

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Jared Spokowsky (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - Jspokowsky@dnr.IN.gov

Still relatively slow with nursery inspections. I was able to find quite a few samples of azalea and rhododendron which we take for a Sudden Oak Death survey. *Phytophthora ramorum* is the causal agent for Sudden Oak Death which has been a problem in the Pacific Northwest for many years. Our division takes hundreds of samples each year looking for diseased material and we have intercepted it in previous years on nursery stock. The [host list](#) is extensive and includes many plants outside of the *Quercus* genus. For more information on SOD click this [link](#).

I did manage to find a healthy population of oleander aphid on swamp milkweed in a greenhouse. There were quite a few natural predators present but the aphids had a pretty good head start on them.



Photo 1 – Oleander aphid colony



Photo 2 – Oleander aphid close up



Photo 3 – Ladybug with the remnants of its aphid lunch

Anyone looking for cover crop choices for feeding bees should take a look at yellow mustard. It is a winter annual which if planted in the fall will survive until the spring and is fast to bloom.



Photo 4 – Honeybee on mustard



Photo 5 – Mustard plant

Lastly, if anyone is interested in brushing up on their honeybee disease ID I would suggest taking a look at this [link](#). Meg Milbrath at Michigan State University has put together a good slideshow with a variety of disease photos in a quiz format. For anyone who doesn't get to see many diseased hives, this gives a pretty good idea of what you would need to be able to ID when trying to diagnose one. I'll also be giving a disease ID presentation on May 11 at the Northeast Indiana Beekeepers Association

field day at Wheeler's Bees as well as the Purdue Field Day put on by the Beekeepers of Indiana at the Beck Agricultural Center on June 15 (registration deadline June 8). And if you think you have a disease issue feel free to call me, even if you know what it is. I need examples to help cross-train the rest of our staff so please don't hesitate to drop me a line at 317-447-0084.

Kristy Stultz (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - KStultz@dnr.IN.gov

Reminder: Aerial spraying for *Lymantria dispar*, now called spongy moth, is planned for the week of May 5 in part of North Manchester and a small area east of Berne in Adams County.

Treatments may be delayed due to weather.

During treatment an airplane flying 75-100 feet above the treetops will conduct treatment, starting at sunrise and continuing throughout the day as weather and flight schedules permit.

A second treatment will occur four to 10 days after the first.

People who live or work near the treatment areas might want to stay inside when the planes are flying and for about 30 minutes after treatments are complete. This gives the material time to settle out of the air and stick to treetops.

For more information on the treatments, call toll-free 1-866-NO-EXOTIC (663-9684), go to on.IN.gov/spongymoth or contact your county extension office. Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) @INdnr invasive for continued updates.



Photo 6 – Aerial spraying for *Lymantria dispar*

Will Drews (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - WDrews@dnr.IN.gov

Besides nursery inspections, our division assists with phytosanitary inspections in partnership with the USDA's APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine staff. In my area, I assist mainly with log inspections and ensure the commodities are relatively pest free before leaving the country or, if not, make sure they will be treated beforehand. The images below show some of the insect pest activity I've spotted recently during log inspections.



Photo 7 – Relatively recent woodboring beetle galleries on White Oak (*Quercus alba*)



Photo 8 – Recent bark beetle activity on White Oak (*Quercus alba*). Note the fine sawdust around the entrance holes. As the beetles tunnel into the wood, they push a frass/sawdust mixture out of the holes.



Photo 9 – Recent possible powderpost beetle activity in White Oak (*Quercus alba*) log. Damaging powderpost beetle species in the area normally consist of either anobiid beetles, bostrichid beetles, or lyctid beetles. Powderpost beetles can be distinguished by their fine sawdust piles near the emergence holes (note circled areas in photo)



Photo 10 – Recent carpenter ant (*Camponotus* spp.) activity in a Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) log. Carpenter ants can make some elaborate and structured tunnel systems in decayed areas of logs as seen in the inset photo. These are more common pests of logs than termites, which they can be confused for (see next image)



Photo 11 – For comparison, recent termite (possibly Eastern Subterranean Termites, *Reticulitermes flavipes*) activity in a decaying tree (not a log during inspections)

No reports this week

Megan Abraham (Division Director & State Entomologist) - MAbraham@dnr.IN.gov

Vince Burkle (Assistant Division Director & Nursery Inspector) - VBurkle@dnr.IN.gov

Eric Biddinger (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - EBiddinger@dnr.IN.gov

Eric Bitner (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - EBitner@dnr.IN.gov

Kallie Bontrager (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - KBontrager@dnr.IN.gov

Ren Hall (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - RHall@dnr.IN.gov

Phil Marshall (State Forest Health Specialist) - PMarshall@dnr.IN.gov

Angela Rust (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - ARust@dnr.IN.gov

Bonnie Spindler (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - BSpindler@dnr.IN.gov

Caydee Terrell (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) - CTerrell@dnr.IN.gov

Diane Turner (Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer) – DTurner2@dnr.IN.gov

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