Insect and Disease Update: June

Can you believe June is here? And according to the Oklahoma Mesonet site, June is shaping up to be mild and wet, with a drought outlook for the month unlikely. With that good news, keen observation and preventative techniques can keep your gardens healthy and beautiful. You may see the following in your garden this month – consult the fact sheets referenced and linked at the end of the article for further education about your particular garden challenges.

- ☑ **Insect pests (EPP-7306 and EPP-7313):**
  - **Bagworms on juniper and arborvitae:** Hand-picking bags (containing overwintering eggs), and/or applying a preventative application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, a bacterial insecticide, can provide good, season-long control.
  - **Elm leaf beetles and larvae on elms:** An application of high-pressure and volume insecticide when hatched larvae begin to feed in early June. Soil-applied systemics can be used also to control the June and later generations.
  - **Mimosa webworms on mimosa and honey locust:** Eggs hatch by early June; once detected, the larvae may be sprayed (webs must be penetrated) with appropriate insecticide or *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki.*
  - **Lace bugs on sycamore and pyracantha, hawthorn and quince:** Natural enemies should control lace bug population, but thorough coverage with an ornamental insecticide may be necessary. Lace bugs are host-specific, so related species may be found on American elm, oak, buckeye, black cherry, black walnut, hickory, alder and birch.
  - **Spider mites** may appear on a host of plants, including tomatoes. Look for these by shaking the plant over white paper; they will appear as crawling dots. During hot, dry weather they can become problematic; at least one treatment is required for control.

- **Twolined spittle bugs on redbud and hollies:** Adults are brownish black with two horizontal orange lines running across the wings. Look for wilting and dieback near the ends of branches from these sap-sucking adults. Treat with insecticides indicated for leafhoppers or treehoppers if damage becomes severe.
- **Thrips on petunias and roses:** Thrips can be controlled naturally by beneficial insects and healthy plant cultivation. If insecticide is necessary, use organic products containing spinosad, neem oil, pyrethrin or insecticidal soap to protect the good insects.

☑ **Diseases and Fungal Infections (HLA-6430, HLA-6420, PA9-23)**

- Continue to treat pines for needle fungal diseases (e.g. Dothistroma and Diplodia) mid-June with appropriate fungicide.
- Botrytis blight (gray mold) infects vegetables, fruits, ornamentals and roses. Blossoms have red spots, then brown and wilt. Prevention includes pruning for airflow, and sanitation of affected plant parts. Treatment with a proper fungicide may be necessary.
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses is difficult to detect and treat; please consult PA9-23 for further information.

☑ **Special considerations for vegetable gardens (EPP-7313, HLA-6012, EPP-7625, 7626, 7627):**

- Spider mites on tomatoes
- Various fungal and bacterial diseases on tomatoes; to be prevented by proper resistant plant selection, rotation and good sanitation. Consult the OSU Fact Sheets referenced below.

☑ **Roses (EPP-7607)**

- Black spot, caused by a fungus, can be detected by the circular black spots on leaves, often turning yellow and dropping, and the systematic defoliation of the entire plant. Prevent spread by resistant cultivar selection, direct soil watering techniques, thinning to encourage ventilation

and disposal of diseased plant material. Appropriate fungicides may also be applied through frost.
    - Spider mites
    - Botrytis blight

Examine your garden often for signs and symptoms of pests and disease, and employ preventative measures whenever possible to keep your garden healthy and beautiful this June – and throughout the growing season.

Additional References:

EPP-7306: Ornamental and Lawn Pest Control
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2281/EPP-7306web.pdf

EPP-7313: Home Vegetable Garden Insect Pest Control
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1317/EPP-7313web2015.pdf

PA9-23: Brown Patch is Active on Cool Season Grasses
http://entoplp.okstate.edu/pddl/2010/PA9-23.pdf

HLA-6012: Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1392/HLA-6012web2013.pdf

EPP-7625: Common Diseases of Tomatoes, Part 1. – Fungi
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1323/EPP-7625web2015.pdf

EPP-7626: Common Diseases of Tomatoes, Part 2. – Bacteria, Viruses and Nematodes
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1327/EPP-7626web2015.pdf

EPP-7627: Common Diseases of Tomatoes, Part 3. – Non-Infectious Diseases
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1331/EPP-7627web%20color.pdf

EPP-7607: Diseases of Roses
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1083/EPP-7607web2014.pdf

HLA-6408: Landscape Maintenance Schedule
http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1136/HLA-6408web2012.pdf