



# Hort Notes

An educational newsletter with research-based information for businesses and individuals involved in selling, planning, designing, servicing, and enjoying landscapes and gardens.

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## **Current Monitoring Checklist:**

[http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact\\_sheets/ipmtools/150\\_199\\_GDD.html](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/ipmtools/150_199_GDD.html)

## **MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST FOR MAY**

*BETWEEN 150 -199 GROWING DEGREE DAYS*

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## **Insects to Watch for in 2001**

The **hemlock woolly adelgid** continues to spread. Current records indicate 117 communities, including three which are not depicted on the accompanying map, have infestations. In some areas, severe decline and mortality are being recorded. This insect can be easily controlled in the landscape by the proper application of any of the pesticides registered for that purpose. Efforts to control this insect in a forest setting by the use of a predatory ladybug are continuing. This year's release is planned for the Newton area, with previous releases being made in Wilbraham and Manchester.

Defoliation caused by the **gypsy moth** is expected in those areas that experienced defoliation last growing season. Winter egg mass surveys indicate that the defoliation will be less severe this year because of the resurgence of the insect fungal pathogen *Entomophaga maimaiga*. This pathogen has been relatively inactive in most areas of the state for the past several years because of drought conditions.

**Fall cankerworm**, which has caused defoliation in several communities, is expected to continue. Trap surveys conducted last fall indicated the infestation to be declining in the coastal areas but increasing inland. Heavy flight of the male moths has been reported as far inland as Sharon. Both the gypsy moth and the fall canker-worm can be easily controlled by the proper application of a registered insecticide.

For more information on any of these insects, go to [Fact Sheets](#).

*Charlie Burnham*  
*Massachusetts Division of Forests and Parks - DEM Forest Health Program*

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## Reference Books to Help Professionals Identify Woody Plants

### ***Muenscher Keys to Woody Plants: An Expanded Guide to Native and Cultivated Species***

by Edward Cope

The new and expanded version of this classic identification tool for horticulturists treats 335 genera and 1156 species of woody plants found in the northeastern United States. Muenscher's *Keys to Woody Plants* enables its users to identify trees and shrubs in all seasons by means of diagnostic field characteristics including leaves, fruit buds, twigs and bark. Edward Cope's revision:

- teaches concepts and terms necessary to all botanical identification.
- retains the simply structure of Muenscher's original keys.
- brings the nomenclature into line with current use.
- provides both a comprehensive key--including native, introduced, and cultivated species--and, for ease of use in the field, a separate key devoted to native and naturalized introduced species.
- meets the needs of both novices and the seasoned professional.
- includes a bibliography of resources that allow the reader to move beyond identification and learn more about woody plants.

Paperback \$22.95/Hardcover \$50.00. Cornell University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851-6525.  
Call:607-277-2211; Fax:800-688-2877. Online ordering at [www.cornellpress.cornell.edu](http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu)

### ***Manual of Woody Landscape Plants***

by Michael A. Dirr

The new fifth edition of this long-standing favorite include 100 additional species, hundreds of new cultivars, and the invaluable benefit of nine more years of experience since the last edition. Professor Dirr covers hardiness, growth rate, habit, foliage, fruit, flowers, size, propagation and much more. Plants are listed by scientific, common and family name. Commonly referred to as the "bible of the industry," every professional should have this book on hand.

Paperback \$49.95. American Nurseryman, Attn: Book Department, Suite 2100, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602-2904. Call: 800-621-5727; Fax: 312-782-3232. Online ordering at [www.amerinursery.com/catalog](http://www.amerinursery.com/catalog)

### ***Fruit Key and Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs***

by Willaim M. Harlow

One of the handiest and most widely used identification aids. The fruit key covers 120 deciduous and evergreen species; the twig key 160 deciduous species. Easily used, with over 300 photographs. AStudents in the field...with hands full of twigs can get accurate identifications faster with these guides . . . this book should prove useful for many years to come!@ - Phytologia.

Paperback \$3.95. Dover Publications. Online ordering at [www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com)

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## Daylily Rust

At this time, there have not been any reports of daylily rust in Massachusetts. However, there is a risk of this new disease spreading into Massachusetts with plant shipments this spring. The rust is able to spread from one susceptible plant to another during the growing season, so green industry workers should be familiar with the symptoms of this leaf rust disease. Two web sites with excellent photographs are [www.ces.uga.edu/agriculture/plantpath/daylilyrust.html](http://www.ces.uga.edu/agriculture/plantpath/daylilyrust.html) and [doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/enpp/pathology/daylily-rust.html](http://doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/enpp/pathology/daylily-rust.html). Or call the UMass Extension Urban Forestry Diagnostic Lab for a copy at (413) 545-3208.

Susan Lerner, Plant Pathology Technician  
UMass Extension Urban Forestry Diagnostic Lab

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## Urban Forestry Diagnostic Lab Report

*Particularly interesting disease/abiotic disorder samples received at the diagnostic lab from March 16 through April 20, 2001*

- *Ilex glabra* >*Compacta* - large number of plants transplanted last summer with browning of shoot tips, leaf margins and entire leaves; winter desiccation exacerbated by secondary *Sclerophoma* leaf spot infection.
- *Japanese yew* - several plants in a hedge died over the winter; roots smothered by excess water accumulating in a poorly drained site
- *Japanese maple* - flaking bark and branch dieback on established tree; heat/drought stress injury exacerbated by *Botryosphaeria* canker.
- *Rhododendron* - curling, brown leaves on branches of well established plants; residual 1998-99 drought damage caused by inadequate hydration before winter/sun reflecting off snow warmed area around leaves and increased leaf water loss during winter/only a few of many samples had disease or insects exacerbating the problem.
- *White spruce* - scattered dieback of branches on a tree transplanted 4 years ago; drought/heat stress exacerbated by small amount of spider mite feeding.

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Disclaimer: Where trade names (\*) are used for identification, no product endorsement is implied nor is discrimination intended against similar materials. The authors have assembled the most reliable information available at time of printing. Due to constantly changing laws and regulations, UMass Extension can assume no liability for recommendations.

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