

Many plant pests now active

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — There are several currently active plant pests to be on the look out for in Hunterdon County.

Gypsy moth caterpillars are on schedule. They are a major pest of oak trees but feed on a variety of other plants including apple, hawthorne, willow, cherry, maple, and larch.

Eastern tent caterpillars are also active now. Their favorite foods are cherry, apple and crabapple.

Sawfly larvae are at work on pines, especially, Scots, and mugho pines. These "caterpillars," greenish with dark heads, can seriously defoliate evergreens.

Last year, birch leaf miner populations were high throughout the state. These larvae, which can cause such severe damage to birch foliage that trees appear completely brown, should be controlled now.

Douglas firs may be infested with woolly aphid, tiny white "fluffy" looking insects which feed by sucking sap from needles causing them to become yellow and distorted.

Lace bugs are common pests on Rhododendron species and on Japanese andromeda. The damage appears as yellow brownish "fading" of foliage which, on close examination, turns out to be finely stippled discoloration of the leaves. The undersides of the leaves show

larger brown sticky spots if this damage is due to lacebugs.

Holly leafminers are about to emerge from leaves to begin laying eggs. If old holly leaves show evidence of this pest (serpentine lines in the leaf) it's time to prevent damage to the new growth.

Spider mites are active now on Norway and blue spruce varieties. "Fading" of needles may indicate a heavy mite infestation and very close examination of the foliage may reveal these minute spider like insects at work.

A variety of scale insects infest

many plants and because they are not obviously insects, but appear as bumps on branches, twigs and leaves, they may go unnoticed until the population has built up over several years. Black "sooty" mold covering branches and leaves is an obvious sign of a possible scale problem.

All of these insect pests can be controlled if necessary with proper and timely applications of pesticides. Contact the Extension Service for control recommendations and for a copy of "Tree, Shrub and Flower Pest Control for the Homeowner."

Md. Pick Your Own guide

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The 1983 "Pick Your Own & Direct Farm Markets in Maryland" guide is now off the press and available free of charge to the public at all public library branches, Cooperative Extension Service offices and Tourism offices throughout the state.

According to George Roche of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, who has worked with the Maryland Roadside Marketing Association to compile and produce the guide, the 1983 edition lists 97 growers in 21 counties, an increase of 4 growers listed in last year's edition.

An ever popular publication which has been put out for over 10 years, the guide lists pick-your-own farms and farmer-operated roadside stands with complete addresses and telephone numbers so that buyers can telephone ahead to learn of exact availability, price and variety.


Included in the guide is a complete listing of the vast variety of fruits and vegetables grown in the state with their approximate harvest dates so that canners and freezers, as well as folks who relish certain special items, can plan ahead to take advantage of the peak Maryland flavor and quality season.

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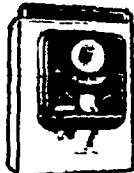
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