

Japanese Beetles Take Flight

It looks like Japanese beetles are just starting to take flight this year. Our nursery scout saw several in southeastern Kentucky last week, and Carl Redmond in the UK Turf and Landscape Entomology Lab saw the first of these beetles last week in Lexington. I also saw one yesterday in Louisville. That means that their flight should peak in about three weeks. For further information including susceptible and resistant plant species and management recommendations, see [Japanese Beetles in the Urban Landscape](#).



Photo: Alex Wild

Fall Webworm has been Spotted

Be sure to keep an eye out for fall webworm masses. These caterpillars feed on numerous (100+) different tree species. Young larvae skeletonize leaves and, over time, **create loose nests** composed of leaves, branches, and spun silk. When disturbed, the caterpillars twitch to deter potential predators.

These caterpillars vary greatly in appearance. Some have a black head and are typically yellow to pale green with white hair. Others have a red head and are typically darker with reddish-brown hair. All have **remarkably long hairs** (half the length of the body or longer), paired dark **spots** on each segment of the back, and reach a length of about one inch. For more information, see the [fall webworm article](#) from North Carolina State University.



Photo: Penn State



Photo: Keith Douce, University of Georgia



Photo: James B. Hanson, USDA Forest Service



Photo: Ronald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service



Photo: Tom Murray

Cottony Maple Scale Update

I stopped at an infestation of cottony maple scale in Lexington last week to find that the crawlers have apparently completed their migration to the leaves where they **have settled and begun feeding**.

If an insecticide spray is used to treat scales, it is generally best to treat while scale crawlers are still mobile. However, if you missed this window and need to treat, you may still be able to get some control by treating when the scale nymphs are still very small and vulnerable as they are now. You may also consider a systemic insecticide rather than spraying a contact insecticide.

For more information, see UK's cottony maple scale [fact sheet](#).



Azalea Lace Bugs Approach their Mid-Summer Buildup

Azalea lace bugs are a common pest of azaleas and mountain laurel. Although egg hatch occurs in the spring, this pest often goes unnoticed until **mid to late summer** when populations build up during the second generation. Just yesterday, I saw a number of azaleas with azalea lace bugs and feeding damage.

Damage from lace bugs is sometimes confused with spider mite damage. Both give the foliage a **speckled** or even bleached appearance (bottom right). However, lace bugs are easily identified by looking at the undersides of leaves. There you will find the feeding nymphs and/or adults (top and middle right) along with their **black fecal spots** (top right).

For more information, see North Carolina State University's article about [lace bugs](#).



Photos: Rosetta, OSU

A Surprising Find

Last week, our nursery scout brought in a sample of what I suspected might be a mass of caterpillar eggs. I left the sample on my desk wondering if I might be able to identify the insects after the eggs had hatched.

To my surprise, Monday morning I found that the bag was not full of newly hatched caterpillars or any other insect pest, but was instead full of parasitic wasps. It appears that every single one of the eggs had been **parasitized** by these wasps! Too bad we didn't know that before we took the sample.

This is a great example of biological control and the potential it holds in a nursery setting.

