

# North Carolina Pest News

Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology



Stephen J. Toth, Jr., editor  
Volume 23, Number 10, June 13, 2008

## CAUTION !

The information and recommendations in this newsletter are applicable to North Carolina and may not apply in other areas.

### *In This Week's Issue . . .*

#### ORNAMENTALS AND TURF

- Leaf Beetle on *Baccharis*
- Slug Oak Sawfly
- Woolly Pine Scale Occasionally Measures Up
- False Chinch Bugs

#### INSECT TRAP DATA

- Light Trap Data from Lenoir County

See current and archived issues of the *North Carolina Pest News* on the World Wide Web at:  
[http://ipm.ncsu.edu/current\\_ipm/pest\\_news.html](http://ipm.ncsu.edu/current_ipm/pest_news.html)

### ORNAMENTALS AND TURF

From: Steve Bambara, Extension Entomologist

#### **Leaf Beetle on *Baccharis***

*Baccharis halimifolia* (a.k.a. groundsel tree or silverling), a woody aster and one that is fairly common from the coast through the piedmont, is occasionally attacked by a leaf beetle known as *Trirhabda baccharidis* (Fig. 1). Tom Glasgow reported this beetle in Craven County a few

weeks ago. If this beetle is locally abundant on a tree in the landscape, it could consume a lot of foliage and a homeowner may want some management. This shrub might grow 6 to 8 feet tall, and is also good forage for honey bees and other native pollinators (Fig. 2). For additional information, see the USDA plant fact sheet available on the following web site: [http://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs\\_baha.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_baha.pdf).



**Fig. 1. Leaf beetle larva on *Baccharis*. Image by Peggie Mackenzie.**



**Fig. 2. *Baccharis halimifolia* pollen (~800X). Image by Nancy Leidy.**

### Slug Oak Sawfly

The caterpillar of the slug oak sawfly, *Caliroa quercuscoccinae*, is from a wasp, not a moth. It is somewhat transparent and you can see through to the digestive system. Besides the slug-like appearance, the skeletonizing feeding is characteristic of this insect (Fig. 3). It is only reported on white oaks. It may be locally common on trees, and may not occur in high numbers with any regularity. Oaks can take a lot of abuse and control is probably not needed. On the other hand, any foliar caterpillar spray, such as Sevin, would eliminate or reduce infestation. For more information, see the following web site: <http://www.forestpests.org/southern/slugoak.html>.



**Fig. 3. Slug oak sawfly larva and damage on white oak leaf. Image by Steve Bambara.**

## Woolly Pine Scale Occasionally Measures Up

The woolly pine scale, *Pseudophilippia quaintancii*, occasionally infests landscape plantings on loblolly, slash, longleaf and shortleaf pines (Fig. 4). They don't move to other hosts. Outbreaks are rarely large enough to do major harm, but a severe infestation could cause branch dieback and is not helpful to a stressed tree. Woolly pine scale is easy to identify by the woolly wax (Fig. 5) and is often accompanied by honey dew, ants and sooty mold fungus. A horticultural oil application at the crawler stage (**NOW**) would be helpful.



Fig. 4. Woolly pine scale. Image by Steve Bambara.



Fig. 5. Woolly pine scale with crawlers. Image by Steve Bambara.

## False Chinch Bugs

It is true, false chinch bugs (Fig. 6) are already here. This week I received a report about a mass of *Nysius* species plant bugs moving into a yard and crawling up a house. Last year our complaints were in August. This is a grassland insect, but might do damage to vegetable crops. Sevin is one choice of insecticide for homeowners and should give adequate control of plant bugs. In lieu of spraying Sevin or a turf pyrethroid insecticide around the entire home and yard, insecticidal soap or even “sudsy” water would be helpful on the driveway, house and sidewalk. Though these insects may also feed on flowers, it would be wise not to spray the flowers themselves or clover filled turf, so as not to kill beneficial pollinators. They won't harm you or your house, but could be annoying. You could treat them as you would boxelder bugs (see *Ornamental and Turf Insect Information Note No. 40* available on the web at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/houseplants/ort040e/ort040e.htm>).



Fig. 6. False chinch bugs. Image by Whitney Cranshaw (<http://www.bugwood.org>).

## INSECT TRAP DATA

From: Alan A. Harper, Lenoir County

### Light Trap Data from Lenoir County

June

```

*****
                                Number of Adult Insects
*****
Date          HW    CEW    ECB    AW    AWC    GSB    BSB    TBW
*****
June 1         0     2     0     0     0     0     0     0
June 2         0     3     0     0     0     1     0     0
June 3         0     1     0     1     0     3     0     0
June 4         0     1     0     0     0     3     0     0
June 5         0     2     0     0     0     2     0     0
June 6         0     3     0     0     0     0     0     0
June 7         1     1     0     0     0     2     4     0
June 8         1     2     1     1     0     1     1     0
June 9         0     2     0     1     1     4     2     0
June 10        1     2     0     1     1     2     1     0
June 11        1     2     0     1     1     1     1     0
June 12        0     1     0     1     1     0     0     0
June 13        0     2     0     1     1     0     0     0
*****

```

Abbreviations: HW = hornworms; CEW = corn earworms; ECB = European corn borers; AW = true armyworms; AWC = armyworm complex; GSB = green stink bugs; BSB = brown stink bugs; TBW = tobacco budworms

---

*Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University or North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of North Carolina Cooperative Extension.*

---

Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

