

Clover Mites – a Nuisance in Homes

The following is excerpted from North Dakota State University CROP & PEST REPORT May 10, 2012

Do you see small dots moving around on the inside of your window sill or climbing up the sides of house on the sunny-side (south or west)? You are not seeing things, but these are probably tiny clover mites called *Bryobia praetiosa*. These reddish-brown mites are cool-season mites and are active in spring and fall. They can be identified by their front legs that are about twice as long as the body and the other legs. Thousands of clover mites can invade a house through cracks in foundations or by crawling

certain trees or shrubs. They are more common in newly established lawns or older lawns that have been heavily fertilized. For control, caulking any cracks or opening in the foundation will help prevent mites from getting into the house. A grass-free zone of

18-24 inches around the base of the house also can be an effective barrier against mites. Landscape rocks are not effective barriers to clover mites. Some plants are not attractive to clover mites including zinnia,

marigold, salvia, rose, chrysanthemum, petunia, juniper, spruce, arborvitae and yew. These plants can be planted in the grass-free zone. Insecticides registered for mite control and outside use around the house can be used as a perimeter treatment around the base of the house to reduce mite infestations. Insecticide should be sprayed 2-3 feet up the side of the house and 2-3 feet out from the base. Applications

should be concentrated in the area where mites are entering the house. A vacuum or damp rag can be used to remove mites from inside the house.



Clover mites. Compared to a penny. Photo: W. Cranshaw

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through the screens. They do not bite or sting people or pets. When crushed, they cause a blood-red spot that may stain the walls, curtains or carpets.

Clover mites feed on the plant juices of turf grasses, clover and even

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Fire Blight and Apple Scab Forecasts

Apple and crabapple trees continue to bloom across the state and are in susceptible stages for fire blight infection. As a result of recent warm (some would say hot) temperatures, the fire blight risk for today is medium in the eastern plains and low to medium in the mountains and valleys. http://uspest.org/risk/fire_blight_map?state=MT

The forecast for fire blight infections for the next 4-5 days is moderate to high risk at all locations I checked (see Hamilton,

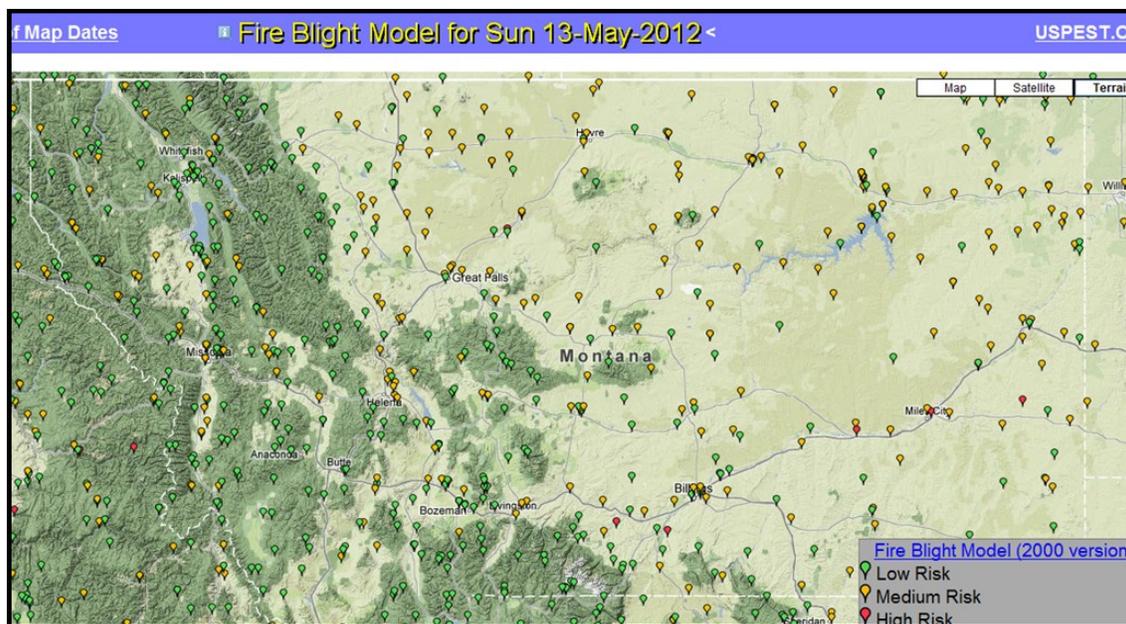
Shelby, Helena and Bozeman below). This is likely to stay high except where weather conditions are too dry. The good news is that many plants will be past their susceptible stages for new infection. Now it will be important to concentrate on those old infections that were not pruned out. Pruning can be done at any time. Follow good sanitary practices.

The risk of scab infection remains low primarily due to the very low dew points across the state. For

apple scab infection to occur there must be a leaf-wetting event (dew, rain) of 9 hours at 70°F up to 20 hours at 45°F. These conditions are hard to come by right now. Below are links with more information on apple scab.

Go to <http://www.mtagalert.org/> to read the Ag Alert for more details.

Linnea Skoglund



Proposed Changes to Urban IPM Newsletter

We are proposing a change from a bimonthly newsletter to an as-needed notice such as the MSU Ag Alerts <http://www.mtagalert.org/>. These Urban IPM Pest Notices will be timelier. Notices will be one to two pages in length and will include photographs when possible. They should be easier to print as handouts for clients. We will continue to reprint pertinent information from other states.

Please open this Survey Monkey link and answer two questions. Feel free to make comments that will help improve our information delivery.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Urban_IPM_Newsletter

Weed of the Week

Blue mustard, *Chorispora tenella*

This exotic plant of the Brassicaceae family can be quite prevalent this time of year in disturbed areas. For example, in southern Idaho, it forms picturesque strips of solid purple along some highways. It was submitted to the Plant Diagnostic Lab in early May, growing sporadically among hay bales. Colorado State University recommends mowing or cultivating the soil in early spring to prevent the plant from producing seeds. It's typically not a problem to livestock, but lactating animals grazing on the plant may produce milk with an unpleasant flavor.

Hilary Parkinson



Schutter Diagnostic Lab Update

Below is a summary of the samples received by the Schutter Diagnostic Lab 1 – 15 May. Insect and plant ID and agronomic crops (primarily wheat) made up 3/4 of our samples. The most common landscape sample was spruce. The most common diagnosis is environmental stress and other abiotic problems.

Category	#	Diagnosis	Category	#	Diagnosis
Small Grains	22		Woody ornamental - Deciduous	5	Freeze/cold injury Various wood decay beetles Mycosphaerella leaf spot Fungal canker
Plant ID	11		Vegetables	3	Cold, wet soil Pythium root rot Freeze injury P deficiency
Insect ID	11	Masked hunter Carpenter ant Clover mite Boxelder bug Sexton beetle	Turf	3	Necrotic ring spot Fairy ring Nutrient imbalance Cold, wet soils
Evergreens (primarily spruce)	8	Environmental stress Pine needle scale Unidentified insect damage	Fruit	4	Powdery mildew Shot hole disease

Montana State University

Urban IPM Program



The objectives of the Urban IPM Program

- Establish an IPM certification program for urban landscape and turf professionals.
- Develop resources for using IPM methods in the urban landscape.
- Train landscape professionals to be First Detectors for invasive pests.
- Educate homeowners/consumers in the basic principles of IPM.

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How to Subscribe

You can subscribe to this bimonthly newsletter by supplying your email address at the Urban IPM website (www.urbanipm.org). Sorry, the newsletter is not available in print.



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