Good afternoon everyone and thanks for choosing Across the Fence. I am Will Mikell in for Judy Simpson. Whether it’s the yard or the garden this is the time the year where in which pests bugs and weather can play a role in how things look and how they grow. This afternoon we're going to see and learn about some of the things that can cause problems in our own backyard. Joining me is Ann Hazelrigg, Ann is the Director of the University of Vermont's Plant Diagnostic Clinic. She is an instructor with UVM Extension. She's been with us many times before and it's always a pleasure to have you with us Ann, thank you.

Ann.: It's always fun.

Will.: This must be the busiest time of year in your lab or clinic.

Ann.: Yes it is. Once the weather turns nice things really start coming in.

Will.: One of the things that's happening and I don't know how to describe it. Give a couple things for us to look at. At one point this was orange it's tried out of a bit. I've seen it before and trees around my own house and I thought it was normal some learning already just visiting the two before the program this is not normal. What you have here?

Ann.: It's too bad because yesterday in the day before when it was wet this thing this gall. It's a swelling on the tree had these big orange gelatinous they're called sporelings. It looks like this from outer space that's very distinctive. That is in juniper it is a fungus disease called cedar apple rest and the interesting thing about this disease is one stage of the fungus is on the juniper and the other stages on an apple host so you're seeing the stage on the juniper SS that the spores from this are being carried by air currents over to a susceptible apple and it will cause bright orange we've spots on the apple tree later in the season.

Will.: Again but one of the things we talked about on this particular junipers cedar is that I have a big one out front. I've seen them for years and frankly I thought it was normal. So it's not really damaging to juniper.

Ann.: No it's not going to kill the tree. If it's in a big tree just ignore it and celebrate plant pathology.

Will.: But I'm getting at the idea that on the other side of the property there are a couple of mangy looking apple trees. That could be an issue if I really cared?
Ann.: If you are an apple orchardist he wants to cut down all the junipers in the area. But in our home gardens and in the landscape we can really do that but it's a disease that won't kill even apple more than juniper so most cases we can just live with it.

Will.: I think it's a very cool thing to learn about and as I said something I've seen for a long time. We talked about spring being busy and you brought an example of something that goes back a season. Maybe a problem that began in the winter?

Ann.: I have seen a lot of this this past spring the cattle a samples of evergreens especially these creepy junipers with foliage this die back. Things went into the fall looking great and come out the winter and you see these dead branches. It is a winter injury. This very common and we didn't have such cold temperatures last winter but sometimes it's the fluctuation. Or the lack of snow cover. Dissipating winds all these things can cause damage like this. So home owners shouldn't be too concerned just check about and should be new healthy growth coming out.

Will.: Does it end to happen on one part of the species more than another. In other words I think I've seen that on some of the lower branches and not so much higher up?

Ann.: right probably I don't know if scattered throughout the plants but typically more in evergreen.

Will.: If you cared and one it's make things look better or maybe make that particular species healthier.

Ann.: Just clip it out.

Will.: Switching subjects. Leonard Perry was with us a couple weeks ago we were demonstrating sewing indoor seeds and if people started that you've indicated to me that now might be the time they might run into a problem?

Ann.: It's called damping off in seedlings and both commercial growers have that problem and home gardeners that are starting their own seeds. What happens there are four or five different soil born fungi that can cause this? Your seedlings get up look great and then all the sudden they heal over and die. It's typically from the soil from being too wet conditions to too cool or something like that. If the home gardener has this problem or commercial grower it's best to just get rid of the flat start over. Make sure that your flat that you use, the surface is sanitized with a 10% Clorox solution. Use sterile mix and get the seeds up quickly. Don't let them sit around cold and wet.

Will.: Is it because I made a mistake is there anything I can learn from it to make that better for next year where is this something that's just going to happen sometimes?

Ann.: Usually if you're doing all the right things it won't happen so you need to keep the seedlings warm enough so they're not sitting in cool what soil. He want to promote rapid germination and once to get a little bigger they can withstand some of the soil born fungi.

Will.: He called a dampening off?

Ann.: Damping off.

Will.: That means maybe have over water available too?
Ann.: Write you've over water door you kept it too a cool. A lot of gardeners can use heating Mats to get their seedlings up quickly and avoid some of these problems. But use a sterile mix and not your garden soil to start your seedlings inside.

Will.: Outside my peony bush or plant is beginning to come in. It looks great so far no issues but again you've indicated this time of year for some their mite can issue and you brought along something we can see what looks like and you can tell us what's going on?

Ann.: Yes I brought a picture this is a common problem this time of here I have a lot of peony is and they just get ready to bloom and then all a sudden we get a lot of cool but whether and these blossom buds all the sudden turn black for cover with grace pores and they die back. Home gardener should just prune that out sometimes it can happen lower in the stem that die back. He just prune it out typically the next but to produce its warmer and drier and it will we find. That it is a common problem with peonies in the first blooms of the spring.

Will.: That's a great plant because it is the tremor back and they come right back in. Bugs in the first one house can ask you about I think there's different kinds of stink bug?

Ann.: Right we had what's called the brown momerated stink bug it's a new invasive pasts for Vermont. We found the couple years ago and we've only found a handful so far in the state. It's an interesting. You can tell it's a brown momerated stink bug because I guess marmeration stew are that pattern black and white pattern on the end of it to abdomen and wing covers. It also has smoothed shoulders and another distinguishing characteristic of this bug that has black and white alternating bands on its antenna. The reason that such a big issue is because this past has caused millions of dollars in damage in mid Atlantic states. It pierces a fruit. This is some of the different damage you'll see. It has wide host range and attack speeches green peppers tomatoes apples stings the fruit sweet corn and causes as browning and it's not marketable. They spent thousands of dollars in mid Atlantic states trying to control this pest? It's really something to watch for. The good news is that according to the entomologists and New Hampshire we've just had a handful of these pests reported throughout the inland states and he feels like it will take several years for this to become a serious agricultural past in New England. We have some time to figure things out. This past there's a slide just up where we can look at again. It's also home invader. That's how in the fall home owners might notice the past because it will come in house is in the fall. This other one in the slide is a look alike. This is the last line use up there, it's called the western conifer seed bug. That's a much longer bug but it's also home invader. Homeowners might get these two mixed up.

Will.: Will the look-alike be a problem?

Ann.: They are a nuisance because they invade homes in the fall.

Will.: Than on the same degree we saw in the previous pictures with tomatoes peppers?

Ann.: No it's not an AG passed. This Western conifer seed bug feeds on conifer seeds so it's not an AG pest. We are interested if people do see this brown momerated stink bug or if they see something that might be the past we'd love to have a sample and they can send it to the plant diagnostic clinic and we will get a positive ID because we'd like to see how widespread this pest is going to be and track it.

Will.: That's remind me again the?

Ann.: Brown momerated stink bug. I had to look up momerated and it means basically striped or patterned.

Will.: It may be a little bit bigger than my thumbnail?
Ann.: no probably a little bit smaller.

Ann.: Looks as though when you talked about the smooth shoulders and our director roger Lewis has put that back up again. It's almost like a shield. A couple of Richie bumps?

Ann.: right it's sort of this shield for the insect. He sort of have to have a hand lines to look at that some shoulder that he would not see any bumps. Just the marmeration on the abdomen and also the striped intending are a good clue.

Will.: Was this brown marmerated stink bug something related to Irene? I've heard invasives that we didn't have before that we may or may not have. Is there any relation at all because we're going to talk about Irene and a second?

Ann.: This pest there's no relation to Irene. It's just moved up I think it was introduced into Pennsylvania in 1998 and has just made its way up the coast.

Will.: When those things move there's probably no other predator or something like that yet that we know of.

Ann.: I was down in the DC area last fall in the car was covered with these brown marmerated stink bugs there everywhere. So we're just making their way.

Will.: This is a good time for me to jump in and talk a little bit about the lab because one of the things I know you and others really worked hard on is making sure that people are not just going somewhere reading something off the shelf that's a real pass aside and just saying I'm going to kill the thing. Talk and tell us a little bit about what we may need to know and how we would react to something that's foreign and what should we be looking for in terms of solutions?

Ann.: Most of these things we can just ignore. We'd like to have are reported. Unless it's an AG pest. This one's just going to be a nuisance for us and hopefully for many years it will just be a nuisance sofa gets into your home just backing them up seal or caulk your windows better and things like that. In most cases you don't ever need to go and purchased pesticide and chill these insects.

Will.: For really anything in this day and age there's all kinds of avenues. Again will get the phone number that people can call and get information. Let me bring us into Irene. What are some of the problems and you have identified some that we think are related war are related to Tropical Storm Irene?

Ann.: One thing we did notice last fall is all a sudden there was a brand new pest in Vermont and throughout New England. This is called the spotted-wing drosophila. It's a little fruit fly. It looks just like the fruit fly that my pure under compost in the kitchen so it's very small but the male fruit fly has to spot on its way that's what is called spotted-wing drosophila. This is a past that was introduced from Hawaii and the California in 2008 and it's just made its way across the country. I think in Michigan it was found in 2010 puts mits way across the country and all the sudden after Irene coming in was covered with this pest. It's very destructive and we're worried about this one. What it does his attacks ripening fruit especially we found in fall raspberry grapes blueberries. If you look at the picture the reason why it it's such a destructive pest is the ovipositor you saw shaped. This is a picture of the serrated ovipositor which is an egg laying apparatus on the female. The fact of the matter is this female can get into an attack fruit. Saw into good healthy fruit lay eggs and then the magnet larvae develops inside the fruit and turns it into soup and it's just very destructive. The fact that she can get into healthy intact fruit. This is a blueberry that's been infested with the maggots. And all the sudden there's no shelf life. Here's another picture of the magnet inside a strawberry or I am not sure
It just destroys the fruit very quickly. This was one commercial growers are really watching. We're really can attract this one throughout New England this next season.

Will.: Just about a minute left in a one to give our viewers at home some information. Again you're giving people at least a couple of things to look after and keep an eye out for as spring develops and hopefully dries out. For homeowners you can get a lot of great information about gardening and pests through the UVM master gardener program. There's a web site on the screen as well as the toll free number 1-(800)-639-2230. They have help line and there are trained people who are there to answer your calls and do you all the information you need. If you have any questions about this but that we've talked about with Ann Hazelrigg or anything else. Can always a pleasure thank you very much.

Ann.: Thank you.

Will.: That is our program for today we know you have choices so thanks for choosing us I am Will Mikell inviting you to join us back your each weekday afternoon for another visit Across the Fence.

Across the Fence is brought to you as a public service by University of Vermont Extension and WCAX TV.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.