

Bugs, Bugs and More Bugs **Bobby Smith, UGA Cooperative Extension- Morgan County**

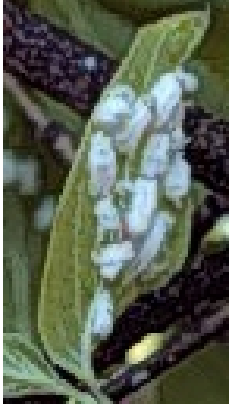
Wow, what an interesting spring and it is about to be summer. In April we had lots of educational meetings. If you made it to one of those, thanks and we hope you learned something! If not, look for more educational meetings in the future.

The end of April and the first 2 weeks of May have brought several new challenges- entomologically speaking. Four weeks ago we had the reports of blackish- brown larvae (looper-worms) attacking oak trees. It is called a "looper" because it arches its body as it crawls, inchworm-style. Most homeowners had one of two symptoms. Oak trees (mostly white oak) being defoliated or the sound of rain falling (actually the defecation of these little worms falling to the ground and hitting leaves mimicking the sound of rain). The first week of May there is an article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution about a Black-dotted Brown Moth larvae infestation taking place in Clarke County (just to our North). Come to find out, we have been having an infestation of the Black-dotted Brown moth (*Cissusa spadix*) for the last two years here in Morgan County and no-one had been able to identify them. This insect is a bit of a mystery to scientists. They're not even sure where the insects lay their eggs. What they do know is that the hatched caterpillars typically spend a day in leaf litter on the ground and under bark cracks and furrows, especially on white oaks. They then climb into the trees for feeding, pupating in early May in the litter layer until emerging as an adult the following year. At this point we also don't have any control measures tested so we are still in the learning phase of this new (to our area) insect.



Black-dotted Brown moth (*Cissusa spadix*) larvae on an oak tree

Earlier this month, I was called out to a client's home on North Main Street to inspect their dogwood trees. What I found was: white, fuzzy-looking insects on the underside of their dogwood leaves that was causing leaf loss due to insect stings and further loss due to anthracnose injury. I noticed several dogwoods in other yards on North Main infested with Cottony Maple leaf scales (*Pulvinaria acericola*). This insect, however, does have both natural and chemical controls available. So, inspect your dogwood trees (especially if you live on North Main Street in Madison) and if you see any Cottony Maple leaf scales give us a call.



Cottony Maple leaf scales

Have you heard the latest buzz? If you have been near any woods in south Morgan County you have undoubtedly heard the “hum” of the 13 year cicada which is migrating and hatching its way northward. They are just starting to be heard in and around my house in Rutledge, but it will be at a dull roar soon. Some describe their noise as sounding like something from outer space. They make a roaring sound and are very distinctive with their reddish-orange eyes and brown opaque wings. The noise you hear is actually the male cicada doing his mating call to attract female cicadas.



Brood XIX Cicada

If you see or have bug problems around your home please give your local UGA Cooperative Extension Office a call at 1 800 ASK UGA1, or 18002758421.