

# MIDDLE TN NURSERY EXTENSION

# nursery e-news

## AMBROSIA BEETLE



Now is a good time to start scouting for ambrosia beetles, particularly on trees in areas more prone to drought or flooding. Within the next few weeks, consider applying an insecticide to prevent adult females from boring into woody shrub and tree trunks of young, recently planted and/or stressed, mature trees.

Pyrethroid insecticides, like permethrin, can be applied and will likely need to be reapplied 14-17 days later; however, follow the product label. Systemic insecticides are ineffective since the beetle doesn't feed on the plant's vascular tissue. Prevention is the best approach. For insecticide rate info, contact Dr. Jason Oliver: [joliver@tnstate.edu](mailto:joliver@tnstate.edu)

For more info:

<https://bit.ly/UGAambrosiabeetle> & [stopab.org](http://stopab.org)



## JAPANESE MAPLE SCALE (JMS)



- Remember to scout for JMS on tree and shrub trunks, particularly in crevices and branch joints where they hide and overwinter.
- Treating now through May with a dormant oil (2-4%) + pyriproxyfen (Fulcrum, etc.) spray now to prevent egg development and hatching of crawlers can suppress populations in the upcoming growing season.

JMS on flowering dogwood

Photo credit: Central Science Lab Harpenden, Bugwood.org



Image 3. A red maple bud just after bud break. This is the ideal time to spray for the maple shoot borer.

## MAPLE TIP CATERPILLAR

- Aka Maple tip borer or Maple shoot borer, is active early spring (mid-March and April) when adult females lay eggs on twigs of many Maple species. After eggs hatch, the caterpillar bores into the emerging and elongating maple shoot thereby killing it (central leaders must be retrained).
- As buds break and shoots develop, it is recommended to spray a bifenthrin product to target the caterpillar. It is a short but important window of time.

## PERIODICAL CICADAS

The periodical cicada Brood XIV will likely emerge from the ground in early May. They went underground 17 years ago (2008). After mating, the adult female lays eggs in tree branches which can lead to flagging and branch failure. Larger populations can result in more tree damage.

Netting can be used to cover trees prior to the cicadas' emergence. Following Brood XIV, the next brood of periodical cicada will emerge 2028 and mostly in west TN.

For more info, see the TSU Extension Fact Sheet: [bit.ly/4hIjBzH](https://bit.ly/4hIjBzH)

County distribution of Brood XIV in middle TN from 2008.



Credit: Periodical Cicadas in TN, Extension Fact Sheet



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Dr. Anthony Witcher in front of the TN State Capitol

## Ag Day on the Hill & National Ag Day

March 18th:

- TSU College of Ag.'s faculty, staff and students celebrated TN agriculture for lawmakers and affiliates at the State Capitol
- NRC's Dr.'s Witcher and Daniel represented middle TN's nursery industry



Dr. Anjin Chang explains drone technology for an attendee

Fun & Educational!!!!

East Tennessee Nursery Association  
**Plant Auction**

Sycamore Shoals State Park Auditorium  
Saturday, April 12, 2025  
Doors open at 8:15 am to view plants and register.  
Auction begins at 9:00 am.

The Plant Auction is a fun family-friendly event featuring high quality trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit trees, native plants, perennials, and rare plant varieties.

**Sponsored By:**

- ✓ Sycamore Shoals Historic Park
- ✓ Bill Hampton, Attorney at Law
- ✓ Carter County Farm Bureau
- ✓ UT Extension

Need More Information:  
Call 423-281-4689 or email [kkhoss@hotmail.com](mailto:kkhoss@hotmail.com) or [kwilso63@utk.edu](mailto:kwilso63@utk.edu)

Plants will be auctioned by Bobby Alley of Valley Realty & Auction, firm No. 2063, and Dale Williams of Rainbow Realty & Auction, firm No. 5516. The proceeds will be used to support the introduction of new and unusual plant material and other horticultural programs for adults and youth.

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MAY 15, 2025  
**MTNA FIELD DAY**

Please join us @ Tri-Green McMinnville from 8:30-2:30 to exhibit and/or sponsor.

SAVE THE DATE!

**NRC FIELD DAY**

Come learn what's happening at the NRC

Morning refreshments and lunch provided  
June 20 | 8 AM

TSU's Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center

