

ECU IPM Program

Action Thresholds

Determining an action threshold for areas of campus will vary depending on the area of campus being impacted and the pest encountered. Example: A planted native landscape will have a higher action threshold (when damage becomes unsightly or infestation endangers other areas) than an ornamental planted landscape. Native plants have a higher tolerance to attacks from pests and diseases that occur naturally in our environment and not all pests and diseases are lethal to the plants. Also most native landscapes are in areas that are of a lower visibility and thus can tolerate more damage from pests. Exceptions will be made for plants and trees that are of high value to the landscape and infestations of invasive non-native pests and diseases. ie. (emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease)

Ornamental landscapes can tolerate some damage but when an area is identified with a certain pest, the action threshold will be when said area has an infestation of 25% of the total landscape bed. (four azaleas in one bed, one has lace bug present, spray plant and monitor bed)

Monitor and Identify Pests

Monitoring landscape for pests and diseases shall be a constant ongoing process for all grounds employees. Any areas of concern should be brought to the attention of the area supervisor to determine a plan of action and when it should be carried out. The area should be observed for beneficial biologics that may already be working to control the pest but also for the presence of pollinators not only in the treatment area but also in adjacent areas that may be affected by drift.

Prevention

All managed areas of the landscape shall be maintained in a manner that works to prevent pests and disease from occurring. Proper cultural and mechanical methods shall promote a healthy landscape with minimal weed issues, proper watering to prevent stress on the landscape and proper fertilization to maintain optimum health. Use of healthy, pest and disease resistant plant species in the landscape shall also be considered.

Control

Broadcast spraying of non-specific pesticides is a last resort for any pest or disease problem should be a last resort. Use of biologic control and /or targeted chemical use shall be a first choice for control. Use of stronger measures will be used only after further monitoring indicates that the pest problem is at an action threshold.