

Pest Update for Woody Ornamentals, Utah State University Extension, July 2, 2016



What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: bloom
Goldenrain tree: full bloom
Mimosa: begin bloom
Oakleaf hydrangea: bloom

Rose-of-Sharon: begin bloom
Shrub roses: bloom
Smokebush: bloom
Sourwood: bloom
Smooth sumac: bloom
Sweet autumn clematis: begin bloom
Tulip-poplar: end bloom
Trumpet vine: full bloom
Vitex: begin bloom

Insect/Disease Information

DECIDUOUS TREES

Honeylocust Spider Mite

Hosts: honeylocust



slight yellowing of foliage from spider mites (top);
honeylocust spider mites are cream-colored and
congregate at the mid-vein (bottom)



Honeylocust spider mites can sometimes be a problem, especially on drought-stressed trees. They feed on the undersides of leaves and cause them to turn yellow-bronze in color and eventually drop. Their populations build rapidly in hot weather, and they are starting to be noticeable now. This pest will not kill trees, but repeated infestations can cause growth to slow.

Honeylocust spider mites overwinter as orange-colored adult females in cracks and crevices on the bark of the tree. They become active in spring and lay eggs in early June. With the hot weather we have been having, the time between generations (eggs to adult) can be as few as 4 days (compared to 11 days in June).

Check for mites at the base of honeylocust leaflets with a hand lens, or shake leaves over a cloth tray. The mites will appear as tiny, slow-moving specks.

Treatment:

Drought-stressed trees are more susceptible, so water trees deeply during dry spells. If this pest is a perennial problem, dormant oil in early May will help.

Residential: 1% horticultural oil, insecticidal soap

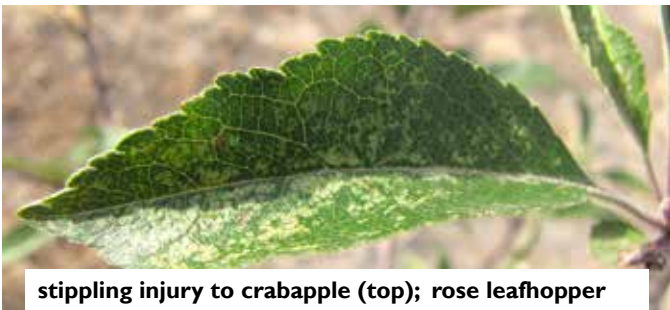
Commercial: any miticide registered for ornamentals (do not use pyrethroids for mite control)

Rose Leafhopper

Hosts: rose, crabapple, cane-berries, hawthorn, others

Rose leafhopper is a voracious feeder of a wide variety of hosts. It has three generations and will be entering the

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stippling injury to crabapple (top); rose leafhopper nymphs have black spots on the thorax and wing pads (bottom)



nymph stage of the second generation soon. Nymphs (young leafhoppers) are flightless, and can be found on the undersides of leaves, causing white stippling on the leaf surface that resembles spider mite feeding. The nymphs are easiest to treat.

Rose leafhopper overwinters as eggs on rose stems. The first generation is completed by mid-June, with nymphs of the second generation hatching in early July. Individuals of the later generations may leave roses for alternate hosts, or may stay on roses until frost.

Small to moderate populations do not cause harm to plants, but where leaves are starting to appear white or are being scorched, consider a treatment before nymphs become adults.

Treatment:

The nymph stage is the easiest to treat. Hard sprays of water can dislodge the flightless nymphs.

Residential: insecticidal soap, 1% horticultural oil

Commercial: acetamiprid (Assail), carbaryl (Sevin)

European Fruit Lecanium Scale

Hosts: maple, linden, ash, honeylocust, and more

European fruit lecanium is a soft scale that feeds on hundreds of different woody species, including maple, linden, ash, cottonwood, and honeylocust. It is highly prolific, sometimes overlapping each other on twigs, stems, and branches of host trees. Crawlers will be active in trees along the Wasatch Front starting July 4, and in cooler areas, July 11, for a period of about 4 weeks.



crawlers of soft scales migrate to the undersides of leaves for the summer

Treatment:

Dormant oil sprays in spring will smother many overwintering soft scales, but for severe infestations, it is not a stand-alone treatment. Targeting crawlers is a primary time to treat because these young nymphs are at their most vulnerable. Trees should be sprayed at least twice, once near the beginning of crawler emergence, and again 2 weeks later.

Residential: 1% horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, acetamiprid (Ortho Fruit, Flower, & Vegetable)

Commercial: acetamiprid (Assail), azadirachtin (Ecozin), synthetic pyrethroids, others

European Elm Scale

Hosts: all elm species



European elm scale adults are typically found on the undersides of branches

Crawlers of European elm scale are active now along the Wasatch Front and will continue through late July. Like all soft scales, crawlers settle on leaves for the summer, and migrate back to woody tissue where they spend the rest of their lives. They feed on sap, producing honeydew as they feed. This sticky material drips down onto cars, people, and other plants, which can be a nuisance. Branches and bark covered in black sooty mold (that thrives on the honeydew) is a sure sign of a heavy infestation. In addition, branch dieback, stunting, loss of tree vigor, and defoliation may also occur.

For treatment, see information about lecanium scale, above.

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Western Poplar Clearwing

Hosts: cottonwood, willow, aspen, poplars, birch

Adults of the western poplar clearwing (*Paranthrene robiniae*) are active now in all areas of northern Utah. Now is the time to treat if your trees have been attacked by these borers in past years. Trees under stress are most commonly attacked.



Adult females lay eggs on the bark of preferred hosts, and larvae feed on the wood within the tree. This pest can kill the tree or reduce structural integrity. Symptoms include oozing sap, circular exit holes, peeling bark, and bark swellings. Woodpeckers may create holes as they scavenge on the larvae.



Treatment:

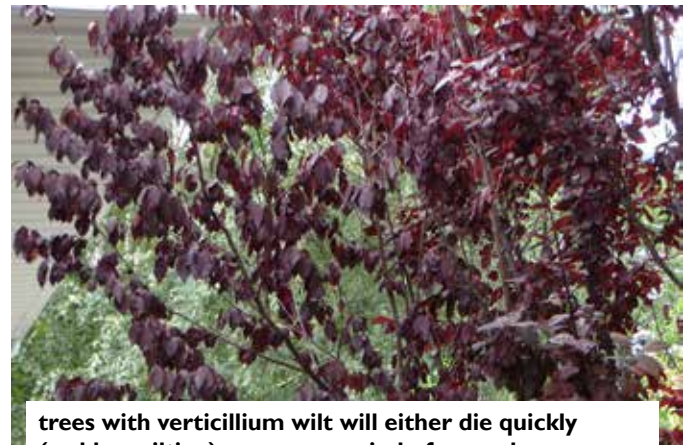
Keep trees healthy with optimal watering. If needed, spray now and repeat in mid-August.

Commercial and Residential: carbaryl (Sevin) or permethrin (many brands)

Verticillium Wilt

Hosts: maple, catalpa, sumac, redbud, ornamental plum, etc.

If a tree has verticillium wilt, symptoms will be showing up now in these hot, dry conditions. Maples are most commonly affected, but many other species are susceptible including catalpa, redbud, cherry, elm, and Russian olive. The disease is caused by a soil-borne pathogen (either *V. albo-atrum* or *V. dahliae*) that enters through the root system through tiny wounds, and clogs the xylem (water-conducting tissue), thereby causing a wilt.



trees with verticillium wilt will either die quickly (sudden wilting) or over a period of several years; the disease can be diagnosed in some species by the appearance of black streaks in the wood



Trees that have chronic symptoms will have small, yellow leaves, slow growth, gradual dieback, and early fall color. As the mycelium of the fungus grows in the wood, it causes a green to black staining that is sometimes visible on a freshly-cut stem.

If you suspect verticillium wilt, collect a branch with both healthy and wilting foliage to send to the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab for confirmation.

Unfortunately, there is no "cure." Chronic infections can be managed with careful watering, mulching, fertilization, and pruning. If a tree dies from verticillium wilt, remove it and replant with a species that is resistant to the pathogen. (The fungus can survive in the soil for several years without a host.) Options include beech, birch, fir, ginkgo, hawthorn, honeylocust, larch, oak, pine, spruce, sycamore, willow, and others.

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