

Insect Activity

DECIDUOUS TREES

Dagger moth



This caterpillar is more of a curiosity than a pest. It is feeding now on a variety of trees, but rarely needs control. Host plants include trees such as alder, ash, birch, elm, maple, oak, poplar, and willow.

What are those "scales?"



These are eggs of the katydid, a grasshopper-relative that we commonly hear "singing" at night. (The noise is created by rubbing their wings together.) Katydid feed on a variety of woody plants, spending most of their time in the tree canopy.

Their feeding will not harm the plants.

The adult females are laying their eggs now, and they will hatch next spring. You may see them on twig stems, along leaves, or on other surfaces. They are harmless.

Poplar and Willow Borer



This insect prefers feeding in willows, but will also damage cottonwoods and poplars. (The poplar borer, which is a different species, prefers aspens.) Younger trees are most susceptible. The adult weevil lays her eggs on the bark of trees, and the hatched larvae bore through the bark to feed within the tree for up to three years.

You may notice oozing sap, split bark, or sawdust-like frass at the base of the tree or major limbs. Damage includes general dieback and branch breakage.

Treatment: Adults are emerging from trees now; treat with carbaryl. Treat again in spring to take care of eggs laid by spring-emerging adults.

Contact:

Marion Murray
435-797-0776
marionm@ext.usu.edu
www.utahpests.usu.edu/ipm

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