



What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Very little is blooming now. There are some crocus blooming and the daffies are popping up. Forsythia is blooming in some areas, which means time for application of crabgrass pre-emergent!

See pages 3-5 for some climate history, and degree day information.

pussywillow: begin bloom
red maple: begin bloom
silver maple: full bloom

Insect/Disease Information

Apply Dormant Oil Now

The term "dormant oil" applies to the timing of application rather than the type of oil. Other terms are "horticulture oil," "superior oil," "mineral oil," "spray oil," etc. They are all derived from highly saturated paraffinic petroleum and refined to certain specifications. Most can be used during both the dormant and summer seasons (but the rate may differ).

Dormant oil suffocates the overwintering insect stage, and works on soft scales, aphids, plant bugs, and spruce spider mites. It is a great tool in an integrated pest management program because they are relatively safe to mammals and the environment and have a minimal effect on natural enemies.

Do not spray when temperatures are below 40° F, or when there is a threat of frost for the next 36 hours. They are rainfast within 24 hours. When applied properly, there is little risk of plant damage.

Boxelder bugs

These nuisance insects are slowly becoming active in the warmer spring weather. They overwinter as adults, sometimes within homes or in other cracks and crevices. They tend to congregate on sunny sites in fall and early spring, such as on the south side of your house. Boxelder bugs are harmless, and cause no damage other than occasional spotting of windows and draperies.

Be patient: soon the adults will migrate to hardwood trees (in particular boxelder) to lay eggs. To get a head start on next fall, take the time this summer to seal all cracks and crevices where the bugs may gain entry into the house.

Poplar twig-gall fly

Pupae of the twig-gall fly are dropping from the galls to the soil now, soon to emerge as adult flies. Damage caused by



poplar twig-gall fly is almost purely aesthetic, but it's certainly odd to see abnormal galls on twigs and stems of poplars and aspen.

Spruce ips beetles

There are many species of ips bark beetles, and *Ips hunteri* is one that attacks spruce, in particular Colorado blue spruce. Trees with dead tops could have resulted from an attack by ips, especially if the tree was drought-stressed. Adult beetles will be emerging soon and looking for new egg-laying sites.

To prevent attack, it is important to keep spruce trees healthy with optimal watering, and quickly remove all freshly downed wood. Drenching the trunk of specimen trees with carbaryl can prevent successful entries, but the material must be present before the beetles enter the tree. A second treatment may be necessary because there are several generations over the summer.

Insect/Disease Activity continued from previous page

Scout your landscape for egg masses now

If you are curious what pests you will face this spring and summer, take a close look at your trees and shrubs for overwintering egg masses. You may be surprised at what you find! (A 10-20x hand lens will help.) Here are some possibilities:



Lacy L. Hyché, Auburn University

Western tent caterpillar eggs are not hidden, but massed around a twig like a blob of jelly.

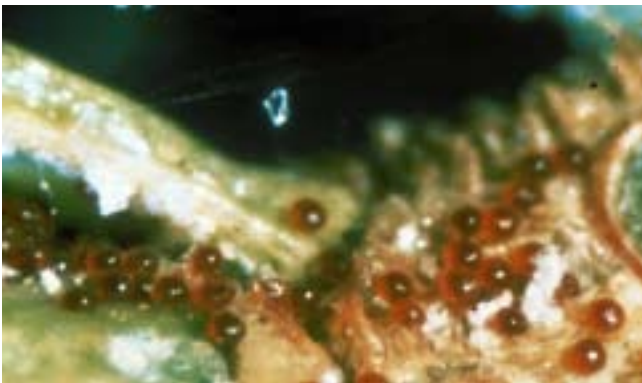


University of AZ Extension

Scale. Shown here are eggs of oystershell scale. Eggs are usually hidden under the body of the female.



Cankerworm. These barrel-shaped eggs are easy to spot on twigs and bark of many hardwood species.



USDA Forest Service Archive

Spruce spider mite eggs on needles or twigs.



Missouri Botanic Garden

Plant bugs. Ash, sycamore, and honeylocust plant bug eggs are also barrel-shaped, but are usually found under or near buds.



Iowa State IPM

Aphids (shown by arrows). The size and shape of aphid eggs is similar across species, but they range in color from yellow to black. They are sometimes hidden, such as under buds.



This is a good one to **keep** in your garden. This foam-looking egg mass contains hundreds of praying mantids--but only a few will live to adulthood; they can be cannibals when young!

Degree Days and Pest Monitoring Timeline

Upcoming Monitoring/Insect Activity

Pest	Degree Day Timing (base 50)	Indicator Plant
White pine weevil	Adults active at 7-58 DD	Silver maple first bloom
Spruce spider mite	Egg hatch at 7-121 DD	Silver and red maple bloom
Smaller European elm bark beetle	Adults emerge at 7-120 DD	Silver and red maple bloom
European pine shoot moth	Larvae move to new shoots at 50-220 DD	Red maple first bloom
Honeylocust plant bug	Nymphs emerge starting at 58 DD	Red maple bloom
Western tent caterpillar	Eggs begin hatching at 100 DD	Forsythia full bloom

Current Degree Days (base 50)

March 1 - Wednesday, April 2

County	Location	GDD (50)
Box Elder	Perry	58
Cache	North Logan	24
	Providence	30
	Smithfield	24
Carbon	Price	58
Davis	Kaysville	60
Grand	Moab	124
Salt Lake	SLC	69
	West Valley City	63
Tooele	Erda	43
	Grantsville	47
	Tooele	53
Utah	Alpine	66
	Genola	80
	Lincoln Point	67
	Orem	68
	Payson	75
	Provo	73
	Santaquin	71
Weber	Pleasant View	55

Production Information

Winter Injury of Evergreens

Mahonia, spruce, fir, pine, yew, euonymus, vinca, and other evergreens are susceptible to winter injury/burn/scorch. Symptoms are typically brown blotches on broadleaved plants and dead needles or needle tips on conifers. Sometimes, one entire side of the plant may be affected--usually the side exposed to prevailing winds or reflection from a white wall or building. What has happened is the foliage has dried, or desiccated, due to lack of water. Over the winter months, evergreens can continue to transpire, especially on warm sunny and/or windy days. But because the ground is frozen, roots are unable to take up water to replace what is lost. The affected tissue therefore is killed. Poorly developed root systems, girdling roots, root injury, soil compaction, and heavy clay soils are some factors that can predispose evergreen trees to winter injury.

Luckily, the buds are still alive, and once new growth has fully expanded, the damaged tissue will hardly be noticeable. If any limbs are completely dead, prune these out. Provide extra TLC for those plants that were severely affected.



Production Information

Weather History

USDA's "drought monitor" ([click here](#)) shows improvement in Utah's drought situation over last year at this time. At this time in 2008, 15% of the state (all in the north) was in a "severe drought" whereas now, that area is now considered "abnormally dry." Still sounds bad, but overall, an improvement! Snowpack and predicted streamflow for much of the central part of the state is at about 75% of normal, whereas the southern and extreme eastern regions are at or above normal for predicted streamflow, which is good news in those areas. The 3-month precipitation outlook for northwestern Utah is slightly below average, and normal for the rest of the state. Summer temperatures are predicted to be slightly warmer than average across the entire state.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Utah

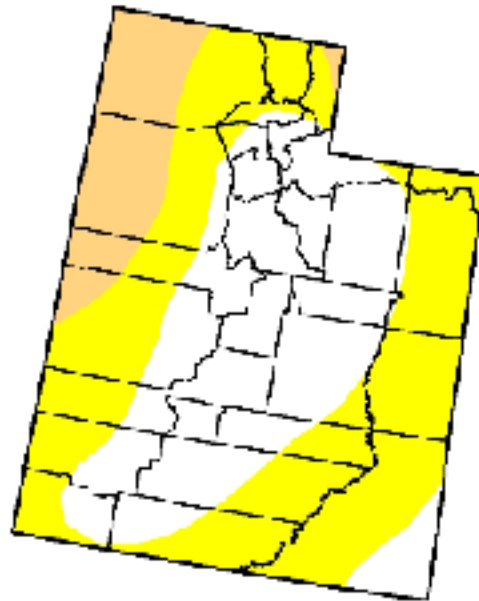
March 31, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (%Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.6	58.2	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (03/24/2009 map)	41.6	58.2	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 Weeks Ago (01/09/2009 map)	53.4	46.6	20.9	2.1	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2009 map)	53.4	46.6	20.9	2.1	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/01/2008 map)	60.1	38.9	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (03/21/2008 map)	50.3	49.7	27.3	15.1	0.0	0.0

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

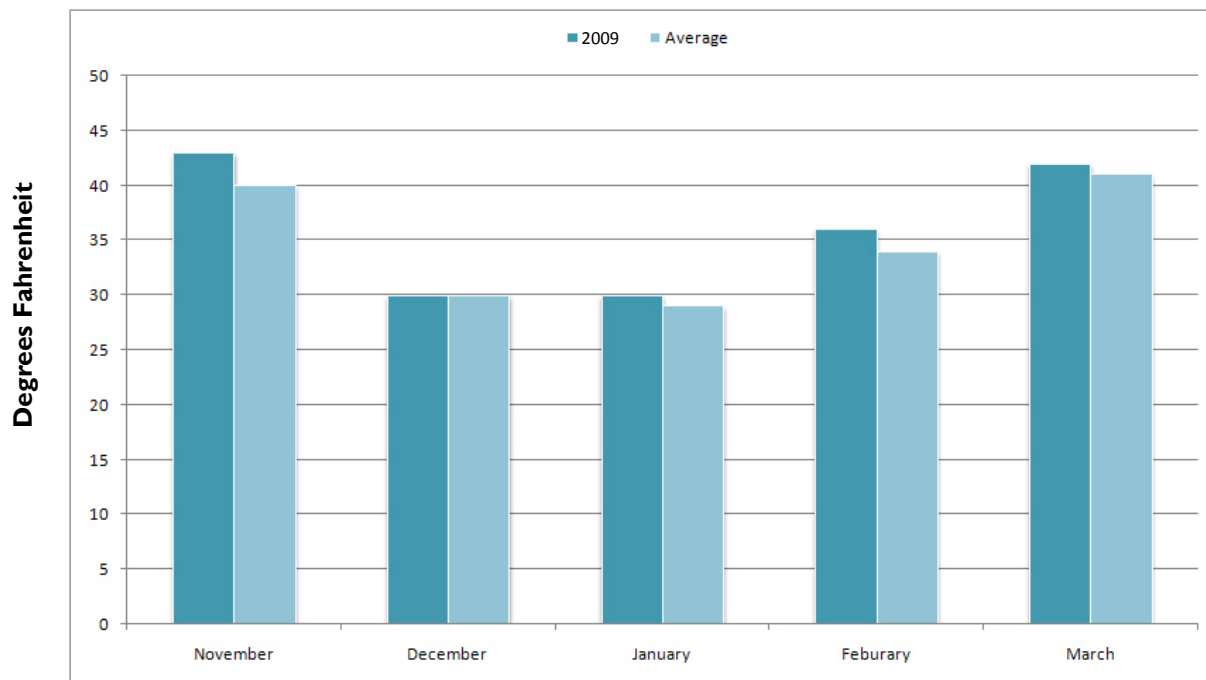


The graphs on the next page show this past winter's monthly temperatures and precipitation and for Salt Lake City compared to the average. Temperatures were at or slightly above average for each month, however, there were several days of above average (in February and March) and below average (in March) temperatures. Precipitation was above normal in November through January, while February and March were dry. As you can see, it takes several years to recover from a drought. Conditions were severe in 2006-2007, and lots of precipitation in the winters of 2008 and 2009 have slowly helped.

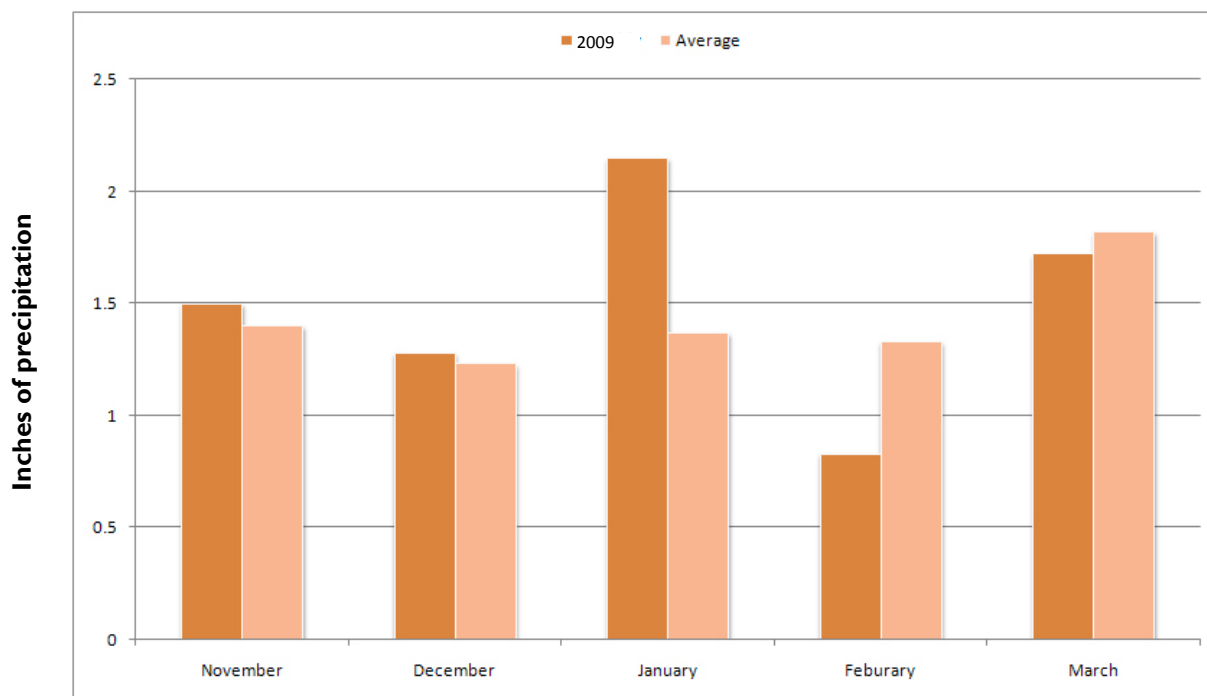
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Production Information, continued from previous page

2009 average winter temperatures by month versus 30-year average, Salt Lake City



2009 total winter precipitation by month versus 30-year average, Salt Lake City



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