

General Information

This “Woody Ornamentals IPM Advisory” is a new service from the IPM program at USU Extension. It will include pest activity based on weekly scouting in areas of northern Utah. In some instances, control recommendations will be provided. We hope you find this advisory useful!

If you find any insects or diseases in your own landscape, we encourage you to contact your local county Extension agent. If he or she cannot help you, your sample will then be sent to the [Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab](#) for diagnosis, located on the USU campus.

Insect Activity

Scale Insects



Pine needle scale: This scale insect was seen in many locations of northern Utah. Like all scales, it is a mostly immobile insect with a hard or waxy shell. It feeds on the needles of many pine species and damages the plant by sucking nutrients from the needles, and causes needle drop in high infestations. If not treated, it can also cause twig dieback.

Currently this scale species is not active, but the eggs, which were laid under the “mother” scales last fall, will be hatching in a few weeks. These newly hatched scales are called crawlers—tiny in size, and aphid-like in appearance.

The best way to treat most scale insects is to treat the crawlers, as they are the only active period in the life cycle of scales. They are active for a few days before “set-

ting in” to feed. Once they begin feeding, they produce a thick, protective covering that is mostly impervious to insecticides.

Treatments: A summer oil spray is effective on pine needle scale (but not on all scales), as are the following during the crawler phase:

permethrin (Bonide), neem oil (Concern FTE), diazinon (Hi-Yield)

Other scale insects seen were:

Cottony maple scale on Linden

Oystershell scale on yew and beech: this scale insect has a harder coat than pine needle scale and is not susceptible to summer oil sprays. It occurs on over 85 different species of plants including maples, beech, crabapples, pears, lilac, birch, ash, ginkgo, and honeylocust.

Lecanium scale on ash

Scale insects are usually only a problem on stressed plants. Other *cultural control options* are to:

- prune out heavily infested twigs
- manually scrape scales off limbs now
- make sure your plants are healthy by applying fertilizer and the optimum amount of water

Watch this advisory for the best time to treat the various scale crawlers.

What's In Bloom

Salt Lake, Weber, and Utah Counties:

Amelanchier: full bloom
Bradford pear: full bloom
Bridalwreath spirea: begin bloom
Crabapple: pre-bloom
Forsythia: full bloom
Japanese kerria: begin bloom
Kwanzan cherry: full bloom
Lilac: pre-bloom
Magnolia: post-bloom
Ornamental cherry: post-bloom
Purple-leaf plum: full bloom
Redbud: first bloom



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[click here](#) for archived advisories

European pine shoot moth

Larvae were seen feeding inside the terminals of mugo pine, causing new shoots to wilt and turn brown. Heavy infestations result in rounded trees with multiple leaders and stunted growth.

The larvae overwinter in pine buds, and when the shoots begin to expand, the larvae begin feeding.

They may move from one shoot to another, entering at the base. You may notice a silk webbing coated with pine pitch at the shoots.



Control can be difficult since the larvae are protected:

- Spring time sprays can catch larvae as they move from shoot to shoot: carbaryl (Bayer Advanced, Allpro), diazinon (Hi-Yield), dimethoate (Ferti-lome), malathion (Bonide)
- Prune out infected terminals

Thrips



A variety of thrips were found in low numbers. Thrips are very small insects (about half the size of aphids, with a very narrow abdomen) that feed by puncturing the host tissue and

drinking the oozing fluid. The damage is seen in a variety of ways, often before the insects themselves: some feed within the buds, resulting in tattered leaves as they emerge (shown below, left), and some suck juices from fully developed leaves, causing a stippling pattern.

Control is usually not necessary in landscape settings as natural predators can keep them in check.

Aphids

Several species of aphid were seen in low numbers, but were not seen as a concern. Several predatory insects can keep aphid colonies in check, and are active now, including lacewings and lady beetles. Usually control is not necessary unless populations are high.

Disease Activity

Powdery Mildew



None observed, but if you know any of your plants had this disease, you can start a preventive plan once leaves have emerge by mixing 1 tbs. baking soda and 2.5 tbs. SunSpray horticultural oil in 1 gallon of water. Apply once/week during the cool morning hours (to prevent phytotoxic damage to leaves).

Once powdery mildew has established, it cannot be killed from the infected tissue, which is why protecting the leaves is the best control option.

Precautionary Statement: All pesticides have benefits and risks, however following the label will maximize the benefits and reduce risks. Pay attention to the directions for use and follow precautionary statements. Pesticide labels are considered legal documents containing instructions and limitations. Inconsistent use of the product or disregarding the label is a violation of both federal and state laws. The pesticide applicator is legally responsible for proper use.

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