Landscape IPM Advisory

Weekly Pest Update for Woody Ornamentals, Utah State University Extension, **April 16, 2010**

What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Warm weather is here! (At least for the next few days). Bud and flower development will now speed right along. We are behind last year by about one week.

Forsythia: begin bloom
Japanese flowering cherry: begin bloom
Red maple: end bloom
Redbud: first bloom
Saucer magnolia: full bloom
Star magnolia: full bloom

Insect/Disease Information

CONIFERS

Spruce Spider Mite

Unlike the two-spotted spider mite, the spruce spider mite is a cool season mite, active in spring and fall. They feed on juniper, blue spruce, dwarf alberta spruce, firs, arborvitae, and some pine. They are so tiny that you cannot see them with the naked eye, and sometimes a hand lens does not help. They overwinter as red-colored eggs near the bases of needles, and start becoming active at this time of year.

If you have had the kind of damage shown above–stippled and yellowed needles–look for the mites over the next few weeks by shaking a few branches over white paper and look for the dislodged nymphs. They will be pale yellow in color. You can smear them across the paper, or use a hand lens to confirm. Horticultural oil will control the mites, but if you choose to use oil on Colorado blue spruce, keep in mind that the oil will remove the bluish bloom from needles. It may take up to 2 seasons to return.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Honeylocust Plant Bug

Honeylocust plant bugs will start hatching as soon as honeylocust leaves start emerging. Nymphs feed on succulent young foliage for approximately 6 weeks. Adults then lay eggs just under the bark in mid-summer. There is one generation per year.

Large populations have been observed in the Salt Lake County area in past years. Heavy feeding can cause necrosis and distorted foliage.

Treatment: For best control, apply insecticide soon after leaves expand. Examples include insecticidal soap (Safer, Concern, Garden Safe, etc.), oil (Concern, Lilly Miller), imidacloprid (Admire, Bayer Advanced, Bonide systemic, Gallant, Provado, etc.), bifenthrin (Tundra, Talstar, etc.), permethrin (Aloft, Brigade, Pounce, etc.), carbaryl, malathion.

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Insect/Disease Activity continued from previous page

Boxelder bugs

Boxelder bugs are slowly becoming active as the temperatures warm. They overwinter as adults in protected sites, sometimes within structures. They tend to congregate in sunny areas in 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. If you find them in the home, the best option is to vacuum them.

Eventually, the adults will migrate to hardwood trees (in particular boxelder and other maples) 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.

Forest tent caterpillar

Forest tent caterpillar occurs where ever hardwoods grow, including aspen, maples, oaks, cottonwood, elm, birch, cherry, linden, and ash. Eggs are laid as globular clumps on twigs and branches in summer, and hatch the following spring, around the time Rocky Mountain maple bud break. Unlike the western tent caterpillar, the larvae of forest tent caterpillar do not live in webs. They feed in the open on foliage, and move from tree to tree on silken threads.

In Utah, populations are usually not high enough to warrant control, but Bt or spinosad are materials that would work the best.

Hackberry Psylla

There are many species of hackberry psyllids, the most common–the hackberry nipple-gall psyllid–forms small galls on the undersides of hackberry leaves. They overwinter as adults in protected areas, and emerge in early spring to lay eggs on emerging leaves. After the eggs hatch, the young nymphs starts feeding on the leaves, causing a small pocket that surrounds the insect and forms a gall. The psyllids feed on sap for the next 6-8 weeks inside the galls.

Infested hackberry can withstand a high population of psyllid galls, so control is not usually warranted.

Treatment: If necessary, hackberry psyllids should be treated in spring. Newly hatched nymphs (present after leaves have fully expanded) will be susceptible to insecticide such as oil or soap, before galls form. At least two applications 2 weeks apart would be necessary. Imidacloprid as a soil drench is another option.

Honeylocust pod gall midge

Honeylocust pod gall midge is a small fly that lays eggs on buds in early spring. The feeding of the maggots causes swellings to form around them for protection. This is a fairly common pest in Utah. Heavily infested leaves drop prematurely and when small branches die back, new shoots develop. There are several generations each year.

Adult activity will increase as the buds start to swell and break, and you can look for them by shaking branches over a cloth tray.

Treatment: Target the newly laid eggs with horticultural oil (1% rate) or carbaryl (Sevin) soon after budbreak.

Production Information

Weather History

USDA's "drought monitor" (click here) shows steep fluctuations in water availability over the last three months. Salt Lake City had a very dry winter (November, January, February), but December, March, and April (so far) were above average. Much of this is due to El Nino: the northern part of the state was dry, and the southern part was wet. At this time last year, the entire midsection of Utah was at normal levels, but a greater percentage of the state (58%) this year is dry. Thankfully, April showers have delivered well above average amounts helping the state to escape a severe drought for this spring.

Winter temperatures were much cooler than average in December, and just about average in the other months.

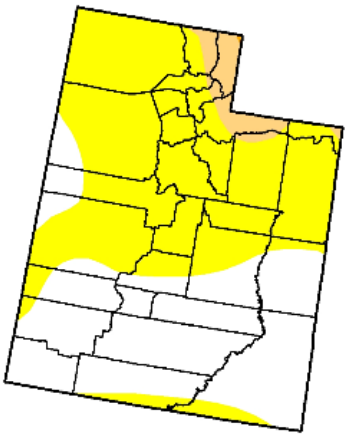
U.S. Drought Monitor
Utah

April 13, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

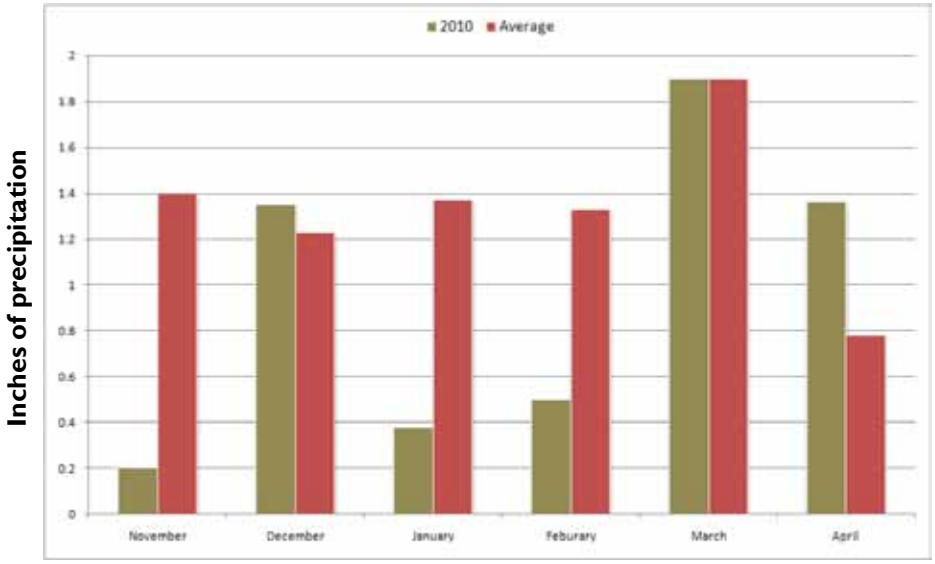
Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

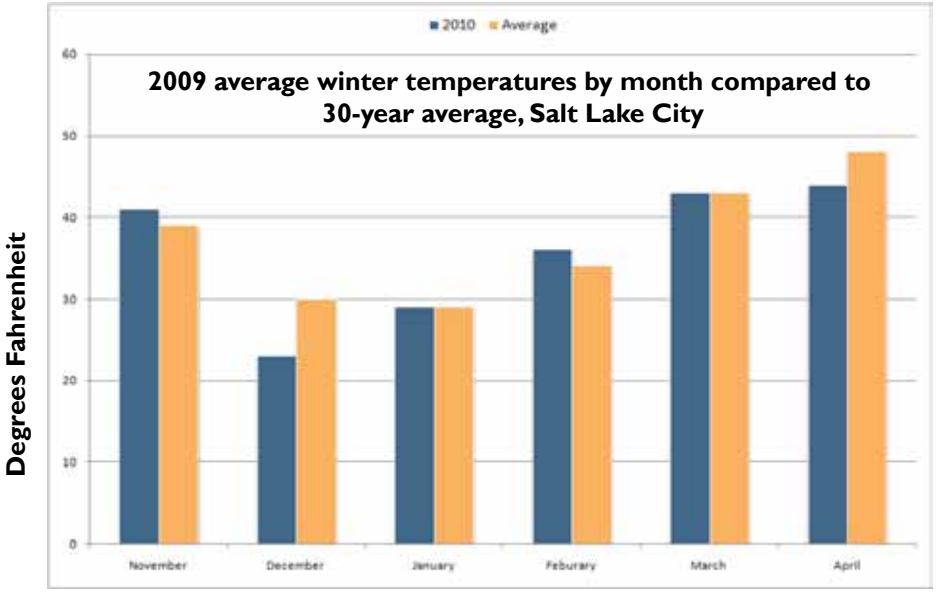
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	42.0	58.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (04/06/2010 map)	39.3	60.7	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (01/19/2010 map)	5.5	94.5	27.9	5.2	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/05/2010 map)	29.2	70.8	18.8	3.2	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/06/2009 map)	69.3	30.7	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (04/14/2009 map)	40.2	59.8	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

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



2010 total winter precipitation by month compared to 30-year average, Salt Lake City





Degree Days and Pest Monitoring Timeline

Upcoming Monitoring/Insect Activity

Pest	Degree Day Timing (base 50)	Indicator Plant
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, Japanese quince begin bloom
Western tent caterpillar	Eggs begin hatching at 100 DD	Forsythia full bloom
Cankerworm	Egg hatch at 150-290 DD	Tatarian honeysuckle, red horsechestnut
Engraver beetles	Adults begin emerging at 112 DD	Star magnolia end bloom

Current Degree Days (base 50)

March 1 - Thursday, April 15

County	Location	GDD (50)
Box Elder	Perry	52
Cache	Logan	29
	Providence	24
	Smithfield	25
Carbon	Price	46
Davis	Kaysville	58
Salt Lake	Holladay	77
	West Valley City	74
Tooele	Erda	62
	Grantsville	41
	Tooele	53

County	Location	GDD (50)
Utah	Alpine	56
	American Fork	65
	Genola	86
	Lincoln Point	56
	Payson	70
	Provo	88
	Santaquin	59
Weber	Pleasant View	59

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Editor: Marion Murray, marion.murray@usu.edu
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