

## Insect Activity

### CONIFERS

#### Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid



*Last years' galls formed by spruce gall adelgid*

Nymphs have not yet hatched but they should be hatching and migrating to the base of the needles of newly expanding foliage in the next two weeks. If you have old adelgid galls, consider a treatment of Merit soon.

#### European pine shoot moth



*Damage to pine tip caused by pine shoot moth*

Larvae continue to feed inside the terminals of mugo pine, causing new shoots to wilt downward and turn brown. Heavy



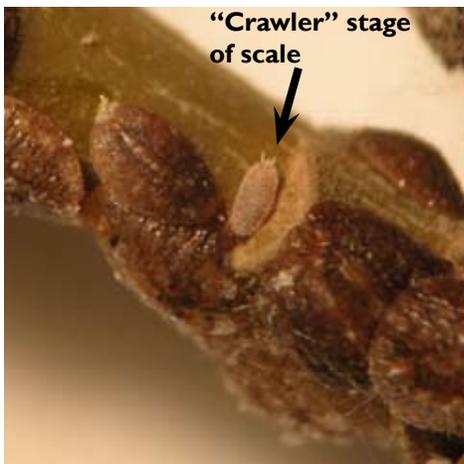
*When pruning out damaged tips, be sure to go low enough to get the larva (2-4 inches).*

infestations result in rounded trees with multiple leaders and stunted growth.

They are now fully inside the terminals so insecticide sprays will not affect them. At this time, prune out all infected terminals.

### DECIDUOUS TREES

#### Lecanium Scale



There are many different species of "lecanium scale", this one observed on ash in

## What's In Bloom

### Salt Lake, Weber, and Utah Counties:

- Amelanchier: post bloom
- Bridalwreath spirea: post bloom
- Burkwood viburnum: full bloom
- Callery pear: full bloom - post bloom
- Chokecherry: first bloom - full bloom
- Crabapple: full bloom
- Japanese kerria: full bloom
- Lilac: first bloom - full bloom
- Mahonia: full bloom
- Purple-leaf plum: post bloom
- Redbud: full bloom - post bloom
- Snowberry: pre-bloom
- Vinca: full bloom



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Utah county. Lecanium scales are a soft scale, meaning that they can move around on the stem. Also, the “covering” you see is actually the organism’s outer wall, as opposed to a removable plate, as on armored scales. Soft scales are also usually larger and more rounded than armored scales.

Soft scales produce large quantities of honeydew that drip onto leaves and limbs. Limbs of heavily infested trees may be blackened by the growth of sooty mold fungus that thrives on the sugar-rich material.

Control of scale can be difficult and may take several seasons. The key is proper timing of insecticide applications. Scales are at their most vulnerable soon after hatching (called the “crawler” stage). Once settled, they begin to secrete a waxy covering that shields them from sprays.

Crawlers of lecanium scales usually emerge in June, and move to the undersides of leaves to feed. A few, however, were seen this week, possibly due to the warmer weather earlier this spring. More information on scale treatment timing will be provided in later advisories.

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### Poplar twig-gall fly



#### ***Last years' galls formed by poplar twig-gall fly***

Galls were seen on aspen trees in Utah county. This native insect produces galls on twigs of aspen, poplar, and cottonwood. The galls are smooth swellings in which the larvae develop.

In spring, adult flies mate and then the female inserts eggs into the stem of newly developing shoots. The larvae hatch and their feeding causes the twig to swell. The full-sized gall forms in two months. The larvae develop within these galls and form a pupa for the winter. In spring, the pupa drop to the ground where the adults emerge soon thereafter.

The galls do not harm the tree, although there have been



#### ***Cross-section of call caused by twig-gall fly***

some reports of cytospora canker forming at the galled sites. It seems to be a problem only on young, vigorous aspen trees. The only control that has been shown to be effective is Merit (imidacloprid) applied as a soil drench before bud break.

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### Cankerworm

Cankerworms are still active, and were observed on crabapple and birch. You’ll notice irregular holes in the leaves, but a small amount of this damage does not harm the tree.

There is still time to apply a control. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is an excellent option for control if deemed necessary.



## Disease Activity



### ***Frost injury on aspen***

No diseases observed this week, but I did see frost damage on a few plants. It's actually not the frost causing the damage, but the freeze-thaw combination that kills tender plant tissue, and sometimes whole plants. Symptoms vary from a brown to black burning on new foliage to shriveled leaves to soggy leaves. Flower pistils on fruit-producing plants may also have been killed.

The warm early spring followed by cold temperatures was certainly unusual, but we may have to get used to the odd weather patterns considering global warming! Even within our small yards, we often have a variety of "microclimates." If you have plants that often suffer frost damage, consider relocating them to a more appropriate site. Plant early-blooming, marginal plants such as magnolia in cooler sites or northern exposures to delay blooming.

Trees and shrubs will recover; simply prune out any damaged growth, cutting back to an undamaged bud or side shoot.

**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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