

Insect Activity

DECIDUOUS TREES

Cankerworm

Cankerworms are still active. I just want to point out that there are two different species of cankerworms that are actively feeding now: the spring cankerworm and the fall cankerworm.



Both occur as larvae in early spring and feed on new, young tissue. They also both feed on similar hosts. The larva of the fall cankerworm is greenish with a darker band across its back and the spring cankerworm larva is a tanish-brown with a yellow side stripe. The other difference is in the flight time



of the adult moths. The fall cankerworm adult flies in October and November, whereas the spring cankerworm adult flies in late February and March. The eggs of both species hatch at the same time.

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

Leafroller

An unknown species of leafroller (possibly fruittree leafroller) was found on Korean-spice viburnum in Weber county. The caterpillar of this moth rolls a leaf in half with silk webbing for protection and feeds within. It moves to new leaves when its "home" is eaten up. There are several different species of leafroller that emerge in spring.



What's In Bloom

Salt Lake, Weber, and Utah Counties:

- Chokecherry: full bloom
- Crabapple: full bloom-post bloom
- Goldenchain Tree: pre-bloom
- Honeysuckle: bloom
- Japanese kerria: post bloom
- Lilac: full bloom - post bloom
- Mountain-ash: bloom
- Pacific dogwood: pre-bloom
- Red-twig dogwood: pre-bloom
- Scotch broom: pre-bloom
- Snowberry: bloom
- Vinca: full bloom



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There is only one generation per year, so the plant can usually withstand localized damage.

Control is similar to cankerworm. Bt is effective, as is Sevin and diazinon. For small outbreaks, simply remove the rolled leaves from the plant.

Disease Activity

Powdery Mildew



Powdery mildew was seen on callery pear in Salt Lake county, which is unusual because this tree species is relatively pest free. But now is the time where this fungus will begin to show itself on new leaves.

Look at the underside of the leaves first for powdery-white webbing on the leaf surface. This fungus can be difficult to control once established. It needs moisture to spread, so avoid overhead watering, and if your tree or shrub is dense, thin out some branches to decrease the humidity. Remove and destroy all infected plant parts (do not compost).

Fungicides may be necessary if cultural control does not keep the mildew in check. Products include sulfur, neem oil (Concern, Garden-Safe Fungicide), kaolin (Surround), propiconazole (Gordon's Systemic Fungicide). These fungicides must be applied on a regular basis starting in spring until early-mid summer.

An alternative mildew control is to mix baking soda with a lightweight horticultural oil such as Sunspray. Use 1 tablespoon baking soda and 2.5 tablespoons of oil in 1 gallon of water as a preventive spray weekly. Do not spray on hot, sunny days.

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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