

Insect Activity

DECIDUOUS TREES

Cankerworm



Cankerworms are just about finished in the Wasatch Front area, but they have caused significant damage in isolated locations. They are at about mid-stage in Cache County.

If you have any trees or shrubs that have been defoliated by cankerworm--do not worry--they will re-foliate within about 3 to 5 weeks. Be sure to give them plenty of water during this drought period, though, to "ease" the stress on the trees.

Cankerworms are a native insect, and natural predators and parasites have evolved with this pest to keep it in check. However, cyclical changes in winter temperatures, food supplies, and insect enemies, causes the cankerworm population to rise and fall. It can increase every 5-7 years. This year is worse than last year, so the population is building, and could remain high for another year or two, and then it should naturally decline.

It is too late to apply Bt. This safe alternative is best used when the larvae are very young and actively feeding--they must ingest the Bt for it to be effective. If you are still seeing feeding, you could wait out this course and plan to use Bt next spring, or apply Sevin or diazinon now.

Oystershell Scale

Eggs are hatching and crawlers are emerging, making this the best time to treat for scale. Oystershell scale has a wide host range of deciduous trees. Treat with summer oil, neem oil (Concern), diazinon (Ferti-Lome), permethrin (Bonide), or malathion (Bonide, Maxide).

Elm Leafminer



The damaging stage of this introduced sawfly is a larva that mines within the leaves of Scotch, camperdown, English, American, and Siberian elms. The adults emerge in early spring as the leaves are beginning to break bud, and lay eggs near the leaf veins immediately. The larvae are visible within the leaves about 10 days later.

If several larvae are mining one leaf, their mines will coalesce, leaving the entire leaf brown and hollowed-out. The full-grown larvae emerge from the leaf and drop to the ground where they pupate until the following spring.

Usually the damage these insects cause, which is mostly aesthetic, does not warrant control. If necessary,

Contact:

Marion Murray
435-797-0776
marionm@ext.usu.edu
www.utahpests.usu.edu/ipm

[click here](#) for archived advisories

larvae can be controlled with imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced, Merit,)

Treat with summer oil, neem oil (Concern), diazinon (Ferti-Lome), permethrin (Bonide), or malathion (Bonide, Maxide),

CONIFEROUS TREES

Pine Needle Scale

Eggs are hatching and crawlers are emerging, making this the best time to treat for pine needle scale. Look for it on the needles of Austrian, mugo, and scotch pines.

Disease Activity

Drought Stress

I never imagined I'd be writing about drought stress in MAY, but the lack of precipitation this winter and spring is already causing havoc on the landscape. May is supposed to be the wettest month of the year, with a little more than 3.5 inches of rain, but so far, we've had less than 1/2-inch.

You may not consider drought stress a disease, but when it affects the tree so that it is weakened and susceptible to other problems, we consider it a disease caused by "abiotic" (non-living) factors.

Hopefully you have already started to water your new tree and shrub plantings from last



year. Even if trees are not showing any kind of stress, they must get a supplemental water source for this important time of leaf expansion. Certain species of well-established trees that are not drought-tolerant can also benefit from a soaking of water.

The key is not to over water, especially if you have "water-wise" plantings. Infrequent, deep waterings are more effective than frequent shallow waterings. Drip or bubble emitters are a great option for watering trees. You could also cut a section of soaker hose long enough to make a circle around the base of your new tree or shrub, moving it from tree to tree as necessary.

Add mulch under the tree canopy so that the tree does not have to compete for water with turf or other plantings.

[Click here](#) for more information about irrigation in the landscape.

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.

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran's status. USU's policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions. USU employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities. This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work. Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.