



What's In Bloom

Beauty bush: end
Cranberry viburnum: bloom
Climbing roses: full bloom
Kousa dogwood: end
Privet: full bloom
Red-twig dogwood: end

Russian olive: full bloom
Shrub roses: begin
Smokebush: begin
Smooth hydrangea: begin
Snowball viburnum: end
Spirea: bloom

Insect Activity

DECIDUOUS TREES

Striped Mealybug

This insect was found by an Extension agent on honeylocust trees in Utah county. This mealybug feeds on a wide variety of hosts, from various trees to tomatoes and eggplants. It was first identified in Utah last summer, so it does not have a wide host range here. It seems to multiply on plants that are water stressed, feeding on the leaves, shoots, and stem.



Control for this mealy bug is similar to all mealy bugs. Keep your plants healthy with regular watering. For the most part, natural enemies will control an infestation. If chemical control is necessary, try insecticidal soap or neem oil. (Use horticultural oil in the dormant season for eggs.) As a last resort, use malathion, carbaryl, or a pyrethrin spray.

Spittle Bug

No--that wasn't a rude person that spit on the branch--that is a spittle bug! Spittlebugs were found active in Salt Lake



county. They are small insects that look like leafhoppers, but are usually not seen because they cover themselves in a white, frothy substance for protection from predators.

They usually do not cause much damage because of their low population numbers. Extensive feeding can occur, though, resulting in yellowing or stunted plant growth.

Generally there is no control needed, however, the bugs may be removed by hand, or with a strong flow of water, or the infested area can be pruned out and destroyed. Healthy plants have minimal pest problems. Inspect transplants for insects before purchase. Selecting varieties that are well adapted to the low desert, place them in appropriate locations to provide adequate space and light, provide proper fertilization, irrigation and insects will rarely be a problem.

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Honeylocust Plant Bug



The honeylocust plant bug does most of its damage as a nymph, feeding with piercing-sucking mouthparts early in the season when the new growth is expanding. But damage does not show up until the leaves have fully emerged. Damage includes leaf distortion, discoloration, and dwarfed leaflets. Severe defoliation weakens the tree and increases its susceptibility to invasion by secondary insect and disease pests. Complete defoliation is possible, but new foliage emerges later in the season.

The adults are still active, but do not cause the damage that nymphs do, so controls are not recommended at this time. (Adults lay eggs in early to mid-summer and die; the eggs hatch the following spring.)

If you have a problem with this pest in your honeylocusts, plan to treat them early next spring. The best control is to target the nymphs, 7 to 10 days after bud break. A strong stream of water on the plant leaves works for many plant bugs. When they are young, they will have difficulty getting back to the leaves. Insecticidal soap and horticultural oil also work. Stronger products include imidacloprid, pyrethrins, and carbaryl.

Sycamore Plant Bug



Sycamore plant bug was seen in Salt Lake county, causing the chlorotic spotting as seen in the photo. The eggs of this pest hatched following the emergence of leaves in the spring, and the nymphs immediately began feeding. Plant bugs inject a toxin into the leaves as they feed which eventually kills the tissue, causing browning and ragged leaves.

Control and timing for this pest are the same as for honeylocust plant bug.

Lecanium Scale



Lecanium scale crawlers have begun to emerge, so treatments should be applied at this time. Crawlers are newly hatched scales, and move to the underside of leaves to feed. (You can monitor if crawlers are out on your own by wrapping duck tape around a branch next to the scale and watching for tiny insects trapped on the tape.)

Control scale with neem oil, horticultural oil, imidacloprid (Merit), carbaryl, or malathion. Merit is a systemic insecticide, so treatment timing of this material is not as critical.

Repeated from an earlier advisory: 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.

Lace bug



Lace bugs were observed in Salt Lake county on sycamore. There are several different species of lace bugs on a variety of ornamentals. In one location in Salt Lake county, they were a problem on oaks. They feed on the underside of leaves by sucking leaf sap, causing stippling. Adults and nymphs also leave specks of dark, shiny excrement. Damage is usually most evident in late summer.

If you suspect lace bug, look for this insect now by examining the lower leaf surfaces or beating a branch over a cloth tray. The stippling that it causes looks similar to damage caused by spider mites and leafhopper.

The usual insecticides listed as control for other pests also work for lace bugs, including neem oil, insecticidal soap, horticultural oil (Green Light, Volck), as well as or spinosad

(Natural Guard) These products may need to be re-applied. But they all have a very low toxicity to humans and a low impact to natural enemies. Be sure to get good coverage on the undersides of leaves.

CONIFEROUS TREES

Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid



The cooley spruce gall adelgid has formed galls. For smaller trees, or where practical, remove and destroy these galls before they begin to turn brown (in mid to late July) to reduce the population. Once the adults have emerged from the galls, removing them will not help.

Disease Activity

Sycamore Anthracnose



Sycamore anthracnose can be a common foliar disease, especially with cooler, wet weather. You'll first notice irregular brown patches along the leaf margins or veins. Over time, the necrotic (dead) area expands to cover almost the entire leaf. Leaves can also look tattered and distorted drop prematurely. The trees will re-foliate within 3-6 weeks and appear good as new. Sycamore seems to be able to tolerate yearly infections followed by re-foliation. When severe, this pathogen can also cause dieback of tender shoots which can result in deformity of the tree growth. It overwinters on these infected shoots or on fallen leaf litter.

To manage this disease, make sure trees are watered and fertilized properly to reduce stress. Rake and dispose of fallen leaves and prune out blighted twigs to reduce the chance of infection in the following season. Since this disease is usually not a serious problem for the health of the trees, chemical controls are usually not necessary.

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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