



What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Barberry: full bloom
Black locust: end bloom
Cotoneaster: full bloom
Japanese tree lilac: full bloom
Korean dogwood: end bloom

Nannyberry viburnum: end bloom
Potentilla: full bloom
Red-twig dogwood: full bloom
Shrub roses: full bloom
Weigela: end bloom

Insect/Disease Information

DECIDUOUS TREES

Leaf Galls

Several interesting plant galls are showing up now on deciduous trees. Galls are formed by toxins that insects secrete in their saliva that causes plant tissue to grow abnormally. Galls are formed by psyllids, mites, aphids, adelgids, wasps, and midges. The growth of the plant is usually not affected by the presence of these galls.

Honeylocust Pod Gall



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Honeylocust pod gall (*Dasineura gleditchiae*) is caused by a midge. The adult midge lays eggs in spring, and feeding by the hatched larvae causes the leaves to form pod-like distortions. Each gall contains one to several larvae. Heavily infested leaves drop prematurely and when small branches die back, new shoots develop. There are several generations each year.

If treatment is necessary, carbaryl (Sevin) can be used as leaves are emerging.



Hackberry Nipple Gall Maker

There are several species of insects that form galls on hackberry, and all are considered minor pests. Galls formed by this psyllid (*Pachypsylla celtidismamma*) are 1/4"-long, columnar-shaped swellings on the undersides of leaves. Inside each gall is a single developing psyllid.

Adults overwinter in bark cracks, crevices or protected sites, and mated females lay eggs on the underside of expanding leaves. Nymphs feed within the

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galls all summer, and emerge as adults in September. At that time, these cicada-looking insects seek shelter, and may enter homes for refuge. One generation occurs each season.

Elm Pouch Gall



The elm pouch gall is formed by an aphid. Inside these hollow galls are 10-15 developing aphids feeding on the succulent tissue. The elongated pouches occur on the upper surface of elm leaves, and is most commonly found on slippery elm, but here is shown on Siberian elm. The galls first appear in May, and usually, only one gall occurs per leaf.

Pustule Gall on Cherry



These galls on cherry are most likely caused by an eriophyid mite, which is not an insect, but an arachnid. Unlike other mites, this mite has 4 legs, and looks like a small worm with legs. Eriophyid mites typically cause galls to form as they feed. They are very small, and can only be seen with a microscope.

Elm Leafminer

Elm leafminers are actively feeding, and the mines have become much larger in the last week. They feed primarily on Siberian elm (which isn't such a bad thing, is it?), but also on American and English elms. The adults emerged a few weeks



ago and laid eggs within the leaf tissue. The small larvae feed on tissue between the upper and lower leaf surface. If you hold a leaf up to the sunlight, you can see the larva inside along with black frass. They feed for about 4 weeks, then drop to the ground to pupate until next spring. Although the mines do not look appealing, damage from this insect does not harm the health of the tree.

Oystershell Scale



Crawlers of oystershell scale are emerging now in warmer locations along the Wasatch Front, and will emerge in the next few weeks in other locations. For severe infestations, the crawler stage of armored scales such as this one is the best time to apply insecticides.

Treatment: horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, carbaryl, malathion

Bronze Birch Borer

Bronze birch borer adults started emerging from birch trees in locations along the Wasatch Front about two weeks ago, and are just starting emergence in Cache and Carbon counties. Adults will continue to emerge for the next 4 weeks. Symptoms of infestation are dieback at the top of the tree with progression toward the lower branches. European species of white birches are most susceptible.

To maintain tree health and to help susceptible trees tolerate attacks, fertilize and apply iron to trees in spring or fall, irrigate all summer, and remove competing weeds and turf.

Treatment: Treatment during adult flight is targeted toward the eggs. Permethrin is an excellent choice, but must be applied by a licensed applicator. Homeowners can use imidacloprid (Bayer) as a soil drench to kill active larvae.



Ash Leafcurl Aphid

The ash aphid is a gray aphid with a powdery white coating whose feeding causes terminal ash leaves to become curled and distorted. This aphid overwinters as eggs on ash twigs, and feeds until late spring to early summer, when they leave for alternate feeding. Treatment during dormancy with oil is the most effective option as contact insecticides will not be able to reach the aphids inside the curled leaves.

EVERGREEN TREES

Fletcher Scale



Crawlers of fletcher scale are emerging now, making this insect vulnerable to safe insecticide treatments such as horticultural oil and insecticidal soap. This insect occurs on arborvitae and yew. Use a 10-20x hand lens to look for crawlers on twigs and the undersides of needles. A second generation of crawlers will emerge in late summer.

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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