



What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: begin bloom
Catalpa: end bloom
Elderberry: end bloom
Goldenrain tree: full bloom
Gray dogwood: end bloom

Mimosa: begin bloom
Ocean spray: full bloom
Shrub roses: end bloom
Smooth sumac: begin bloom
Trumpet vine: full bloom
Tulip-poplar: end bloom

Insect/Disease Information

DECIDUOUS TREES

Sycamore Plant Bug



Sycamore plant bugs (*Plagiognathus albus*) are feeding up a storm on sycamore and London plane trees. They have already gone through a few generations. The first generation started at the time of leaf expansion (with the hatching of overwintered eggs), and their population size has increased exponentially since then. As they feed (adults and nymphs) with their piercing-sucking mouthparts, they inject a toxin into the leaves that kills the tissue, causing chlorotic (yellow) and necrotic (brown) stippling and ragged leaves.

The best timing for treatment is in spring, as the nymphs are hatching (about 7-10 days after bud break). A strong stream of water on the plant leaves knocks them off, and the young nymphs will not be able to crawl back to the leaves. Insecticidal soap and horticultural oil are also effective. Treatments can

also be applied now; materials include imidacloprid, pyrethrin, synthetic pyrethroids, and carbaryl.

Scales

European Elm Scale



Crawlers of European elm scale are active now. This pest is a soft scale that produces honeydew as it feeds. This sticky material drips down onto cars, people, and other plants, which can be a nuisance. Branches and bark covered in black sooty mold (that thrives on the honeydew) is a sure sign of a heavy infestation. In addition, branch dieback, stunting, loss of tree vigor, and defoliation also occur.

Females lay eggs in early summer, and crawlers hatch beginning in early July, continuing for approximately a month. Crawlers move to the underside of leaves and succulent twigs to feed for the summer, and then migrate back to twig crevices for the remainder of their lives. There is a single generation per year.

Insect/Disease Activity continued from previous page

Lecanium Scale

Crawlers of lecanium scale are also active now. It is another soft scale and is highly prolific, sometimes overlapping each other on twigs, stems, and branches of host trees. The honeydew produced is quite messy. Hundreds of different woody species can be attacked. Its life cycle and feeding habits are similar to European elm scale, and there is one generation of crawlers that hatch in late June through July,

Treatment

Scale insects are difficult to treat, but there are a few windows of opportunity for control. Dormant oil sprays in spring will smother many overwintering soft scales, but for severe infestations, it is not a stand-alone treatment. The second time is to target the crawler stage because these young nymphs are the most susceptible to treatment. (Alternatively, because it is a systemic insecticide, imidacloprid can be applied as a soil drench in spring.)

Summer oil or insecticidal soap are effective against the crawlers in summer. Other products that are effective are azadirachtin, carbaryl, synthetic pyrethroids, and malathion.

Red Fire Bug - New to Utah



Erin Hodgson, USU Extension

Recently, Entomology Specialist, Erin Hodgson, received a call about an interesting insect that was identified as red fire bug (*Pyrrhocoris apterae*). Upon visiting the site, she found hundreds of these bugs on the homeowner's Salt Lake City property, in the grass and in the landscape. These insects are native to areas of Europe, India, and China, and had not been reported in North America until earlier this summer, when it was seen in the southeastern area of Salt Lake City. Their recent appearance cannot be explained, but likely they were transported on plant material from Europe or Asia. Dr. Hodgson suspects that the red fire bugs in Salt Lake City will expand their range throughout much of urbanized Utah.

Because they are a new pest for our area, we have not yet identified the host plants they prefer. In Europe, they feed on

a wide range of dry, ripe seeds of mallow, linden, and limes, and there it is not considered a pest of economic importance.

Red fire bugs are true bugs with a vibrant red body and wing coloration. They have one generation per year, although some adults can live up to two years. Overwintered females lay 40-80 eggs in her lifetime (which can be up to 2 years), starting in April and May, so nymphs and adults can be seen throughout late spring and summer, like boxelder bugs.

Thanks to Dr. Hodgson for this information. If you have seen this unusual bug on your property, please contact her, at erin@biology.usu.edu.

Black Knot



Black knot is a fungal-caused disease that causes black, warty galls on limbs of cherry and plum. In Utah, black knot is not a serious pest. In the East and Midwest, however, this disease can cause economic losses in plum orchards. It is most often seen on native cherries, but can attack over 20 different species of *Prunus*.

It spreads in spring by spores that are released from existing knots by a minute amount of water, and they germinate on succulent green tissue or on wounds. The warty galls are visibly apparent within 2 years. Stems infected with black knot will slowly decline. Control in Utah is fairly easy as the galled stems are easy to find. Simply prune out infected limbs and discard.

EVERGREEN TREES

Fletcher Scale

Fletcher scale (on yew and arborvitae) crawlers have hatched and should be treated now. See previous scale information for life cycle and treatment information.



Degree Days and Pest Monitoring Timeline

Upcoming Monitoring/Insect Activity

Pest	Host(s)	Degree Day Timing (base 50)	Indicator Plant
Cottony maple scale	maple, linden, ash, hackberry, and more	Crawlers begin hatching at 800 DD	Catalpa full bloom
Bronze birch borer	European, white, paper birches	Adult emergence ends at 800 DD	---
Cottonwood leaf beetle	cottonwood	3rd generation larvae start feeding at 900 DD	Elderberry full bloom
European elm scale	elm	Crawlers begin hatching at 1030 DD	Goldenrain tree full bloom
European pine shoot moth	2- and 3-needled pines	Egg hatch begins at 900 DD	Deutzia full bloom
Fletcher scale	yew, arborvitae	Crawler emergence at 900 - 1200 DD	Littleleaf linden full bloom
Elm leaf beetle	most elms	Larvae of 2nd gen. begin hatching at 1300 DD	---
Lilac leafminer	lilac	Adult egg-laying (2nd gen.) begins at 1388 DD	---
Pine needle scale	2- and 3-needled pines	Crawlers (2nd gen.) begin hatching at 1400 DD	---

Current Degree Days (base 50) For more information on degree days, [click here](#).

March 1 - Wednesday, June 25

County	Location	GDD (50)
Box Elder	Perry	1125
Cache	North Logan	902
	Providence	924
	Smithfield	905
Carbon	Price	1047
Davis	Kaysville	1114
Grand	Castle Valley	1675
Salt Lake	SLC	1226
	West Valley City	1308
Tooele	Erda	1397
	Grantsville	1407
	Tooele	1333

County	Location	GDD (50)
Utah	Alpine	1016
	Genola	1147
	Lincoln Point	1050
	Orem	1100
	Payson	1185
	Provo	1172
	Santaquin	1096
	West Mountain	1107
Weber	Pleasant View	1216

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