

Insect Activity

DECIDUOUS TREES

Pearslug

The pearslug is actually the larval stage of a sawfly. It is referred to as a slug because of its slimy appearance. It feeds on sweet and ornamental cherries, pears, cotoneaster, quince, plum, and hawthorn. It skeletonizes leaves, which in turn leads to early defoliation. Most plants can tolerate moderate feeding.



This insect has two generations. (The first has already passed in most areas.) Adults laid eggs in early June and when the larvae matured, they dropped to the ground to pupate in the soil. Some of these will remain in the soil until the following spring, but most will emerge as adults in August to begin the second generation. Peak feeding by these larvae will occur in early September.

Look for the larvae of this pest in early to mid-August.

Treatment: This pest is easily controlled when spotted early. Spinosad, which is a metabolite derived from a bacterium, is an excellent option. Trade names are Entrust and Success. Natural Guard and Green Light also make spinosad products.

Lilac Leafminer

This insect is a minor pest of lilacs. The small caterpillar of this moth feeds within the leaves, leaving behind a curved path of dead tissue. Mines of many larvae can coalesce into a large necrotic blotch. When it is close to pupation, they exit the leaf and tie a new leaf in half to continue feeding and then pupate.

There are two generations per season, so if you saw damage to your lilac leaves earlier this spring, expect to see more damage again.

Treatment: The best option is to rake up and destroy the

fallen leaves carefully each fall. Ortho Systemic Insect Killer is the only registered product for this pest. It should be applied as you see new mines forming.

Raspberry Horntail

The adult female lays eggs in spring by inserting them into the succulent tissue. The young larvae feed in a spiraling pattern down the stem, and then move to the pith to feed as it gets older. Eventually, the tip of the cane starts to wilt. The larvae pupate in the stem. Some adults emerge for a second generation while others remain in the pith until the following spring.



If you are seeing this damage, the best option is to prune out all wilted canes on a regular basis, and destroy the debris. Over time (at least 2 years), this practice will significantly reduce the insect population in your area.

Treatment: This wasp is very difficult to control with chemicals, as the timing is crucial. Products such as carbaryl (Sevin) or permethrin should be applied in April and May. (Do not spray during bloom to avoid killing pollinators. Ideally, spray late evening or early morning).



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EVERGREEN PLANTS

Engraver Beetles and Ips Bark Beetles

There are several species of *Ips* beetles that attack conifers, primarily pines and spruces. The adults are tiny black beetles that are attracted to certain chemicals that the host trees exude. They bore into the bark of host trees and create an egg gallery in the inner bark from which larvae emerge and bore laterally. Some beetles, such as the spruce ips, only feed in the top part of the tree.

The beetles are attracted to stressed or wounded trees, so keeping your conifers as healthy as possible is the best measure of defense. Prune trees properly and dispose of debris or any fresh-cut trees. Treatment with chemicals is not practical as the timing can be difficult.



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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