



What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: bloom
Japanese pagodatree: bloom
Mimosa: end bloom
Oakleaf hydrangea: bloom
P.G. hydrangea: bloom

Rose-of-Sharon: begin bloom
Sweet Autumn clematis: bloom
Shrub roses: end bloom
Trumpet vine: bloom
Vitex: bloom

Insect/Disease Information

DECIDUOUS TREES

Japanese Beetle Update

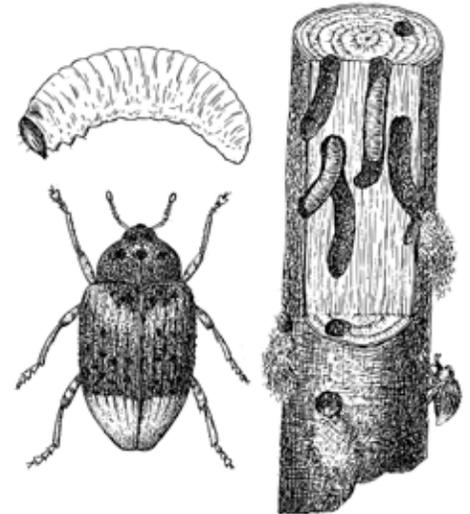


Japanese beetle was discovered in the Orem area of Utah in 2006, and a trapping program a year later caught thousands of beetles. The state of Utah embarked on a 5-year eradication plan, monitored by widespread trapping (3,500 traps in 2009). After two years of treatment, trapping results showed a 95% eradication. The good news is that it was recently announced that no beetles have been trapped so far in 2010.

Poplar-and-Willow Borer

Poplar-and-willow borer is a wood-boring weevil that primarily attacks willow. Other hosts are black cottonwood, balsam poplar, and hybrid poplars. Adults are active now, laying eggs in deep holes that they chew through the bark. The larvae then spend two years burrowing within the wood, and cleaning frass outside the galleries as they go.

Trees with infestation show symptoms typical of borers, including sawdust-like frass, red-brown ooze, and dieback. Often the upper crown will show dieback first, and branches may split or fail due to weakening of the stem.



They are not a serious concern in Utah, but a few specimens have been identified in the plant pest diagnostic lab over the years. Young trees are very susceptible and a population can spread through monoculture plantings such as shelterbelts or screenings.

Treatment: Maintain a vigorously growing tree with optimal watering and fertilization. Treat bark and major limbs with an insecticide starting in mid-August through early October (carbaryl, permethrin).

Western Poplar Clearwing

Another pest of poplars that bores into trees is the western poplar clearwing. Unlike poplar-and-willow borer, the western poplar clearwing also attacks aspen. This pest is a moth that resembles a wasp, and the white larvae feed within the tree for two seasons. Adults are flying and laying eggs now through to early October.

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Look for sawdust-like frass and brown-red ooze along the trunk and larger branches. Usually trees are not killed, but weakened. Treatment timing and methods are the same as poplar-and-willow borer.



large holes gouged out by woodpeckers looking for the larvae of the poplar clearwing

Oak Skeletonizer



The oak skeletonizer is a minor pest of oaks in Utah, and is so named because it only feeds on one layer of the leaf surface,

leaving a window pane effect. There are two generations per year, and adult moths of the second generation are flying now, and laying eggs. Larvae will feed and mature on oak leaves through early October. They then spin a cocoon on the leaves or on the tree trunk to spend the winter. The first generation of larvae feed as a leafminer soon after hatching, and then emerge to feed on the lower leaf surface. We rarely see heavy infestations, where skeletonized leaves will drop and cover the ground.

Western Leaf-footed Bug



The western leaf-footed bug (*Leptoglossus clypealis*) was recently found hatching in large numbers in a few localized areas. This true bug overwinters as adults and has just one generation each season in northern Utah. It is unclear why there were large hatchings of this bug (along with other species of true bugs) so late, but it probably has to do with the recent weather patterns. Males release aggregation pheromones in fall when they find suitable overwintering sites. Adults would have overwintered in very large groups due to the sudden cold snap last late fall, laying huge numbers of eggs after mating this spring.

Another contributing factor is that populations are normally controlled by a wasp, *Gryon* sp., that parasitizes eggs. The population size of this wasp may have been reduced by the cold spring temperatures.

Western leaf-footed bugs are commonly found on juniper, but they can also feed on a wide variety of fruits and flowers. It is a pest of almonds and pistachio.

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Linden Aphid



The linden aphid (*Eucallipterus tiliæ*) has been feeding on lindens throughout northern Utah for most of the summer. It is a distinctive aphid in that it has spots down its back as well as on the wings and antennae. The depth of color and appearance of the spots depends on the vigor and nutrient availability of the host tree. Young nymphs rarely have spots. Linden trees are the primary host.

This aphid overwinters as eggs on the bark and twigs, hatches in spring, and passes through multiple generations over the summer. It usually does not build to high enough numbers to harm the host tree; but turn over any linden leaf and you may find them. The honeydew they produce can be messy.

CONIFERS

Spruce Bud Scale

The diagnostic lab recently received a sample of a dwarf Alberta spruce heavily infested with spruce bud scale. This soft scale is very difficult to detect because the scale bodies resemble the natural buds of the plant. They are found clustered at the base of new shoots. Because they are a soft scale, they produce honeydew, on which sooty mold grows. The bark can appear black in color.

They overwinter on needles as young nymphs, and in spring, migrate to twigs where they lay eggs under their bodies. Eggs hatch in mid-summer (through July) and crawlers move to twigs or needles to feed.

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They are best treated during the crawler stage, but a dormant oil treatment will also be effective.

Ips Bark Beetles

Trees infested with *Ips* beetles are starting to show symptoms/dieback now, with this long period of dry weather we have had. The spruce ips primarily feeds in the top part of the tree.

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.

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.



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