Landscape IPM Advisory

Weekly Pest Update for Woody Ornamentals, Utah State University Extension, **August 14, 2008**

What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: bloom
Japanese pagodatree: bloom
Mimosa: end bloom
Oakleaf hydrangea: bloom
Rose-of-Sharon: bloom
Sweet Autumn clematis: bloom
Shrub roses: end bloom
Trumpet vine: bloom
Vitex: bloom

Insect/Disease Information

DECIDUOUS TREES

Moisture-Induced Leaf Scorch on Hardwoods

Leaf scorch (also known as marginal necrosis) caused by lack of moisture has been evident for the past few weeks on many landscape trees. Tissue usually starts dying at the leaf edges or between leaf veins when the plant transpires more water than it can take up. It is often seen on plants growing near hot, reflective surfaces or on exposed, windy sites. It is sometimes confused with a disease such as anthracnose or bacterial scorch, but moisture-induced leaf scorch is usually scattered uniformly in the canopy. Symptoms are typically most severe toward the top and outer branches.

The symptoms of leaf scorch will not kill a plant, but the underlying causes should be addressed. The plant's ability to rapidly translocate water have been compromised, and this could be caused by:

- frequent, shallow waterings that cause the soil surface to become compacted and sunbaked, and results in slow death of feeder roots;
- girdling roots around the trunk;
- lack of watering after transplanting;
- recent construction or digging that has killed a portion of the root system;
- trunk injuries by lawn care equipment.

Multiple years of moisture-induced leaf scorch may cause the tree to show symptoms of dieback in the upper canopy. Suckering along the trunk and large branches are it's last-ditch effort to survive.

Watering Tips:

- Mulch under trees out to the tree canopy with 2 to 3 inches of well-composted organic matter, keeping the mulch away from the bark of the plant.
- Water with a slow soaking system such as drip irrigation or soaker hose for long and deep waterings every week or every other week during drought conditions. Water from sprinklers for the lawn is not sufficient.
- Water trees planted in the last 3 years every week, and trees planted up to 6 years ago every other week.
- If you have limited water, focus on your new plantings and woody plants first, garden beds next, and lawns last.

scorch on burning bush

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scorch on Norway maple


scorch on oak


scorch on horsechestnut


scorch on beautyberry


scorch on aspen


plants suffering from severe iron deficiency (amur maple) are more susceptible to leaf scorch

Honeylocust Spider Mite


Virginia Cooperative Extension

Honeylocust spider mites (*Platytetranychus multidigituli*) are around all summer, but as populations build (like two-spotted spider mites), they are most noticeable at this time of year, when a single generation takes only four days.

Foliage will appear yellow and stippled, and in heavy infestation, becomes necrotic and drops prematurely. Such damage is not very common, and may not need control. Dormant oil sprays are the best option for control, smothering overwin-

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tering adults. Oil can also be used for summer populations, as well as soap or a miticide (abamectin, bifenazate, hexythiozox).

Tar Spot on Maple

Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service

Tar spot (*Rhytisma* sp.) is now showing up on maples now (Norway, silver, red, Rocky Mountain). Infections (caused by spores blown from old plant debris) probably occurred in mid to late spring, but don't become obvious until this time of year, when the infected tissue starts to turn shiny and black. In fall, the raised spots will remain black while the surrounding tissue will prematurely lose chlorophyll. Tar spot is not very common in Utah, but where it occurs, is it not a threat to the health of the tree. (In the eastern U.S., where there is more moisture, tar spot can cause early defoliation.)

For suppression of this disease where it exists, make sure fallen leaves are raked and removed.

EVERGREEN PLANTS

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 a 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.

Landscape IPM Advisory
is published weekly by Utah State University Extension

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