



## What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: bloom  
Clethra: end bloom  
Oakleaf hydrangea: end bloom  
Rose-of-Sharon: end bloom

Shrub roses: end bloom  
Sourwood: end bloom  
Sweet Autumn clematis: end bloom  
Trumpet vine: end bloom  
Vitex: end bloom

## Insect/Disease Information

### DECIDUOUS TREES

#### Cankers on Red-Twig Dogwood

Cankers on stems of red-twig dogwood were observed in Salt Lake County, causing a slow dieback of a large clump. The cankers, possibly caused by the fungus *Botryosphaeria*, appear as longitudinal, brown to black sunken areas along the stems. When the bark is scraped away, the margins of the canker are evident.

The only way to manage cankers is to prune out the infected tissue about 6 inches below the lower margin. Thinning the plant and fall rejuvenation pruning will improve air circulation and encourage new growth for next spring.



#### Pear Slug



Pear slugs (also known as cherry slug) are the larvae of a sawfly that appear slimy and almost translucent. They feed on the upper surface of foliage of cherry, mountain-ash, apricot, hawthorn, cotoneaster, plum, and pear. The second generation of larvae are active now, and if they are in high numbers, can cause defoliation. But because this second generation damage is so late in the season, control is not always necessary. If necessary, Bt and spinosad are very effective.

#### Slime Flux

Slime flux is readily apparent on trees now, such as willow, elm, ash, cottonwood and locust. This condition occurs when a large population of naturally-occurring bacteria builds within a tree, causing gases to form. The resulting pressure creates a

## Insect/Disease Activity continued from previous page



*If you see a patch on the ground next to a large tree, where nothing is growing, look straight up—you'll find where the slime flux bacteria is oozing from the tree, dripping onto the ground, and killing the vegetation there.*

continual ooze of sap through cracks or bark. Other bacteria feed on the sap, creating a frothy, smelly discharge that stains the bark. Most trees can survive fine with this condition, but some (in particular globe willow) may show symptoms of decline.

Because the bacteria exist inside the tree, it is almost impossible to eradicate. If the sap is flowing from a stem, prune out the stem. You can also cut the bark away from the oozing site in an elliptical shape, and apply a 5% solution of bleach. If the oozing is originating from a main crotch of the tree, there may be no other alternative than tree removal.

## CONIFEROUS TREES

### Spruce Spider Mite



Now that the cooler weather has approached, spruce spider mites are starting to build in numbers again on blue spruce, dwarf alberta spruce, arborvitae, and true firs. They are so tiny that you cannot see them with the naked eye, and sometimes a hand lens does not help. Look for webbing and a stippling pattern of damage, or necrotic plant tissue.

Mites will continue feeding through the fall until the first hard frost. They overwinter as eggs on foliage and bark, and females will start laying eggs in mid September.

*Treatment:* hard spray of water; oil (removes blue bloom from blue spruce), Abamectin, Kanemite, Zeal

**Precautionary Statement:** Utah State University Extension and its employees are not responsible for the use, misuse, or damage caused by application or misapplication of products or information mentioned in this document. All pesticides are labeled with ingredients, instructions, and risks. The pesticide applicator is legally responsible for proper use. USU makes no endorsement of the products listed herein.

### Landscape IPM Advisory

is published weekly by Utah State University Extension

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