EXTENSION
UtahStateUniversity

Landscape IPM Advisory

UTAH PESTS

Pest Update for Woody Ornamentals, Utah State University Extension, **August 13, 2016**

What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: end bloom
Mimosa: end bloom
Oakleaf hydrangea: end bloom
P.G. hydrangea: end bloom
Rose-of-Sharon: end bloom
Rubber brush: begin bloom
Sweet autumn clematis: bloom
Shrub roses: end bloom
Trumpet vine: bloom
Vitex: end bloom

Insect/Disease Information

DECIDUOUS TREES

Locust Borer

Hosts: black locust and its varieties, including 'Purple Robe'

locust borer adults are distinctive and can be found on late-blooming plants like rubber brush or goldenrod; feeding by larvae weakens tree structure and may result in limb or trunk failure.

The locust borer is a beetle that attacks black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and its cultivars. 'Purple Robe' is the most common black locust planted in Utah. Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) is not attacked.

Adult activity (egg-laying) begins when goldenrods start blooming, but they are most active in September. The beetles are actually pollinators, feeding on nectar and pollen.

Females can lay up to 200 eggs, placing them individually in bark crevices and around wounds on the main trunk and larger limbs.

After hatching, larvae bore into the cambium and then "rest" for the winter. In spring, they start feeding and bore into the sapwood and heartwood, producing a tunnel 3-4 inches long. They start pupating to adults at this time of year.

Trees infested by locust borer will ooze at feeding sites. The weakened wood can split during storms. With repeated attacks, trees may be killed. Drought-stressed trees or trees weakened by root compaction or root loss are most susceptible, as are trees less than 8 inches in diameter.

Treatment:

Maintain a vigorously growing tree with optimal watering and fertilization. Spray bark with an insecticide starting in mid to late August. Repeat 3 to 4 weeks later.

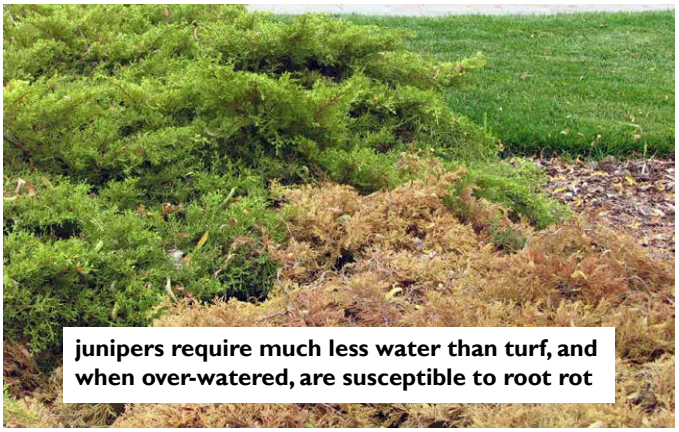
Residential: Sevin or a permethrin product (no organic products available)

Commercial: pyrethroid products, carbaryl

Insect/Disease Activity, continued from previous page

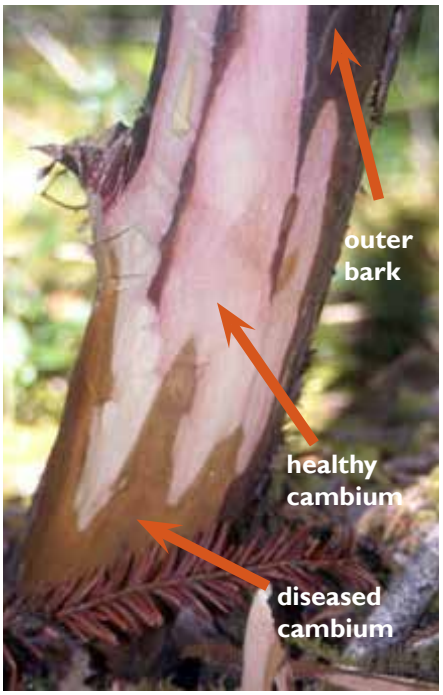
Phytophthora Crown and Collar Rot and Phytophthora Bleeding Canker

Hosts: many plants, including juniper, maple, horsechestnut, beech, sumac, birch, ornamental pear, and more



junipers require much less water than turf, and when over-watered, are susceptible to root rot

A plant that seemingly dies overnight may have been killed by a plant pathogen called Phytophthora (fye-TOP-thora). It is a fungus-like organism that is present in most soils, and only causes disease when soils are consistently saturated.



This disease is not typically seen in Utah's natural landscapes; however, in some urban sites, over-watering and/or poorly drained soils can provide excellent conditions for the disease to develop.

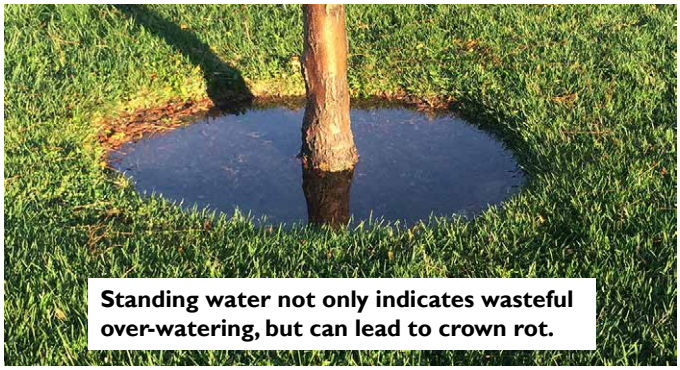
Infections may happen right at the crown where moisture sits for more than 6 hours. The pathogen grows in the cambium (the inner bark), turning it a distinctive cinnamon-brown color as the tissue dies, essentially girdling the tree.

Treatment:

The best "medicine" is prevention: make sure trees are not planted too deeply, improve soil drainage with organic amendments, do not over-water, and do not over-mulch.

Remove and destroy dead plants and replace them with resistant species. Click here for a list.

over-watering, and leaving tree wrap on year-round, led to Phytophthora bleeding cankers on this birch tree



Standing water not only indicates wasteful over-watering, but can lead to crown rot.

Western Leaf-footed Bug (image on next page)

The western leaf-footed bug (*Leptoglossus clypealis*) can periodically occur in large numbers at this time of year. This true bug overwinters as an adult and has just one generation each season in northern Utah. Males release aggregation pheromones in late summer when they find suitable overwintering sites.

Western leaf-footed bugs are commonly found on juniper, but they can also feed on a wide variety of fruits, flowers, and seeds. In other parts of the country, it is a pest of almonds and pistachio.

Insect/Disease Activity continued from previous page

leaf-footed plant bugs do not cause major plant damage, but can be a nuisance

Katydids

katydids' leaf-camouflaging features help them avoid predators (top); females start laying scale-like eggs on twigs starting in late summer

Some people are noticing strange structures on small twigs of a variety of trees. These are eggs of the katydid, a grasshopper-relative that we commonly hear "singing" at night. (The noise is created by rubbing their wings together.)

Katydids feed on leaves of a variety of woody plants, spending most of their time in the tree canopy. Their feeding will not harm the plants.

The adult females lay eggs starting in mid-August through early fall. You may see the eggs on twig stems, along leaves, or on other surfaces. They will hatch next spring into nymphs that take the summer to develop into adults.

Dagger Moth

Hosts: alder, ash, birch, elm, maple, oak, poplar, and willow

dagger moth caterpillars are not easy to miss due to their unique appearance; they feed on foliage of many trees in late summer

Another insect "curiosity" is the dagger moth. It is a late-season caterpillar that is feeding now on a variety of trees. It rarely needs control.

Treatment:
Not warranted.

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 dies at the leaf edges or between leaf veins when the plant transpires more water than it can take up. This 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 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.

Insect/Disease Activity continued from previous page

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 trees' last-ditch effort to survive.

Watering Tips:

- Apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch or well-composted organic matter mulch under trees out to the drip line, keeping it away from the bark.
- Water with a soaking system such as drip 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 maple


scorch on oak


scorch on aspen


scorch on horsechestnut


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

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