



What's In Bloom

(Salt Lake City area)

Butterfly bush: end 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

Pear Slug

Hosts: silver maple, ash, cottonwood, elm, and other hardwoods



The pear slug (also known as pear sawfly, cherry slug, or cherry sawfly) is actually the larval stage of a sawfly. It is referred to as a "slug" because of its slimy appearance. It skeletonizes leaves, which in turn leads to early defoliation. Most plants can tolerate moderate feeding.

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.

Treatment:

Products that contain the ingredient, Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) or spinosad are very effective.

Pigeon Tremex

Hosts: silver maple, ash, cottonwood, elm, and other hardwoods



Female pigeon tremex uses her ovipositor to drill into the bark to lay eggs. Sometimes, she gets "stuck" to the tree and dies in place. This pest only occurs in dead and dying trees.



The pigeon tremex is a large wasp (non-stinging). The female lays eggs in the bark of weakened or declining trees and upon hatching, the larvae bore into the wood. They are not considered serious pests because of their focus on dying trees.

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Adults of the pigeon tremex are active through early October. At this time of year, females may be seen crawling over the bark, looking for egg-laying sites, which are areas of low moisture content.

The female also carries spores of a decay white rot fungus which is introduced along with the eggs. This fungus grows within the wood ahead of the larvae and is required for their successful development. Infection of trees with white rot fungus accelerates decay and may lead to tree failure (such as limb breakage). Larvae typically take nearly a year to become full-grown and then pupate just under the bark. The adult emerges in about a month after pupation and cuts a circular exit hole from which it leaves the tree.

Treatment:

Maintain a vigorously growing tree with optimal watering and fertilization. No insecticides are registered for this pest.

Slime Flux

Hosts: willow, elm, ash, cottonwood, locust, and more



Slime flux refers to the bacteria oozing from pruning cuts or other openings. As it drips onto the ground, it kills turf and other plants.

Where it occurs, slime flux is readily apparent at this time of year. Native, soil-dwelling bacteria may enter some trees through the roots, and colonize the wood. As the bacteria multiply, gasses are generated and pressure builds within the tree. That pressure is then released through openings such as pruning cuts or wounds, where the internal bacteria plus sap continually ooze. Other bacteria feed and grow on the sap, creating a frothy, smelly discharge that stains the bark. Most trees can survive fine with this condition, but some (globe willow and some cottonwoods) are killed or 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.

Herbicide Injury (see images, next pg)

Herbicides are the most commonly applied pesticide in the urban landscape. A survey of urban streams by the US Geologic Survey found that a majority of them contain herbicides. Safe and careful application is important not only to protect the environment, but also to protect non-target plants like landscape trees and shrubs.

RoundUp (glyphosate) is one of the most common herbicides, killing all plant types. Herbicides used in the lawn are in a group called broadleaved post-emergence herbicides, and most are growth regulators. They include dicamba and 2,4-D.

Symptoms of herbicide-damaged plants is usually consistent for the type of herbicide that causes it, and includes:

chlorosis (yellowing): secondary veins will remain bright green while primary veins, and spaces between veins, will contrast sharply as a bright yellow

necrosis (death): dead spots or leaf edges that follows a “drip” pattern; symptoms can show up on one side of the plant due to drift or root absorption on that side

distorted growth: foliage/petioles are twisted (epinasty), elongated, cupped upward or downward, leathery, and/or with feathered edges

Causes of injury and how to avoid:

- drift: do not spray in wind; use as coarse a droplet size as possible
- volatilization: spray in the morning when temperatures are cooler (below 85° F); even plants in bud are able to be affected by volatilization; some materials are labeled as “low volatilization” (amine formulations of 2,4-D, or granular formulations)
- root uptake: do not spray within the drip line of trees or shrubs

Herbicide injury may appear anywhere from a few days to several weeks after exposure. Most healthy woody plants will recover from growth regulator herbicides unless the tree or shrub is under severe stress (such as from water deficit), or the dose is extremely high. New growth will appear abnormal, and may persist for more than one season.

To help the exposed plant recover, water deeply and slowly once/week. Do not fertilize.

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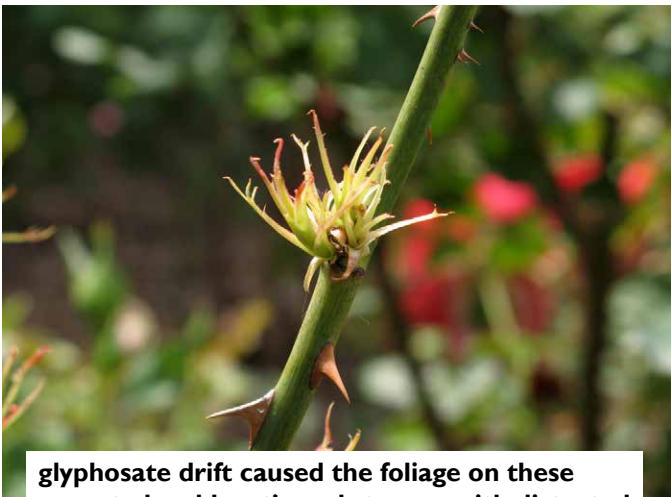
Injury caused by glyphosate (RoundUp)



this apple tree was exposed to glyphosate; note chlorotic and elongated foliage



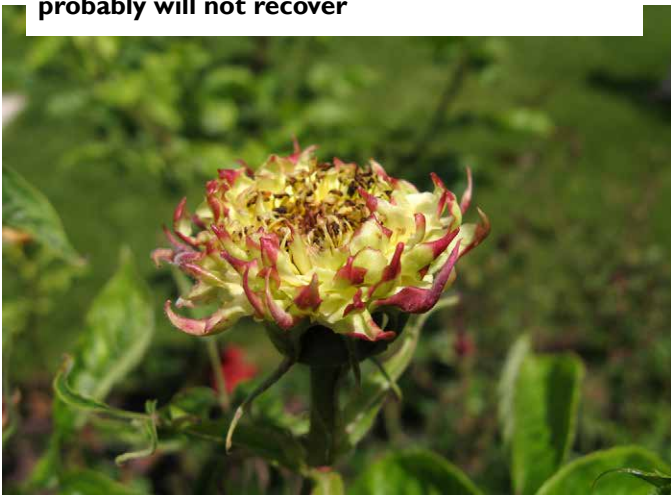
RoundUp (glyphosate) should not be applied around trees after July, because spray may drift onto the bark surface. The surfactants in the product enable the glyphosate to penetrate the bark. This activity predisposes the bark to cracking and winter injury.



glyphosate drift caused the foliage on these roses to be chlorotic and strappy, with distorted flowers; these plants were affected while still in bud and had no healthy growth; as a result, they probably will not recover



this pear was also exposed to glyphosate drift; the new growth is slender and stunted

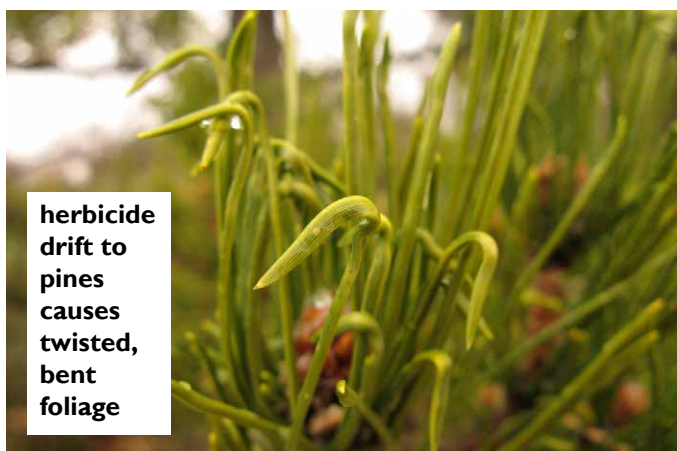


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Injury caused by broadleaved herbicides (dicamba, 2,4-D)



on catalpa, symptoms include leathery, wrinkled leaves that are strongly cupped upward



herbicide drift to pines causes twisted, bent foliage



redbuds are extremely sensitive to small amounts of growth regulator herbicide; the symptoms are classic, with cleared primary veins, feathered leaf edges, downward cupping, and leathery, elongated leaves; this tree may take several years to recover

Injury caused by soil sterilants



soil sterilants are not allowed for residential use, but reports of tree damage still occur

foliage is quickly killed where the veins remain green

trees may or may not recover



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.

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