

Pest Update (April 17, 2013)

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Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insects from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, instead please send a digital picture of the pest or problem. **Walnut samples may not be sent from any location – please provide a picture!**

Available on the net at:

<http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx>

Any treatment recommendations, including those identifying specific pesticides, are for the convenience of the reader. Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally those that are most commonly available to the public in South Dakota and the inclusion of a product shall not be taken as an endorsement or the exclusion a criticism regarding effectiveness. Please read and follow all label instructions and the label is the final authority for a product's use on a particular pest or plant. Products requiring a commercial pesticide license are occasionally mentioned if there are limited options available. These products will be identified as such but it is the reader's responsibility to determine if they can legally apply any product identified in this publication.

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Timely Topics – winter continues!



What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time we were way ahead of plant development. The Dolgo crabapples were in bloom in Brookings, about three weeks ahead of normal. I took a picture of the same tree in 2013 and as you can see the scene is quite different! Normally forsythia would be in bloom at this time and the buds are not even expanding yet.

So what does this continual cold weather mean to our plants?

Probably not as much as you might think. Since the weather has been steady cool to cold, rather than warm then cold, most plants have not yet come completely out of dormancy and are still able to tolerate these 20°F temperatures. We typically see injury when the March temperatures are in the 50°F and then we get a cold snap in April. This year we have not left the cold yet!

We will probably see a condensed version of spring this year with plants leafing out later than normal but their shoot and leaf expansion proceeding faster than normal. I expect the same with most spring pests. Normally I have seen the tents from the tent caterpillars forming by now but not this year. Our early spring pests will probably be more late spring pests this year.



Ice has been the problem in the Sioux Falls-Worthington area

The ice storm from a couple of weeks ago made these communities look like a tornado went through town missing all the buildings but hitting all the trees. An information sheet on repairing ice damaged trees, and even deciding whether a tree can be repaired, is

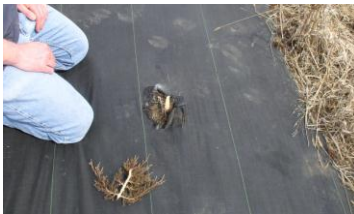
available on iGrow at:

<http://igrow.org/up/resources/06-1001-2013.pdf>

Tree owners faced with pruning or removing mature trees should hire professionals to perform these high-risk tasks. However, not everyone who knocks on your door offering these services is a professional. Hiring local trees

companies, even if it means a longer wait, is generally the best option. These companies have been in business for years and will be here long after the storm clean-up is over and the other companies have left. Regardless of who is hired be sure they have the proper insurance (worker compensation and general liability) otherwise you, the tree owner may be financially responsible for paying for any damage or injuries that occur on your property. Also be sure the company has employed arborists certified by either the South Dakota Arborist Association (companies in South Dakota) or the International Society of Arboriculture (companies in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota). Certified arborists have passed an exam that covers proper pruning and repair techniques as well as safe work practices. And finally, NEVER let someone start to work on your trees without a written quote – there have been several tree owners who let a company do pruning and removals in their yard only to be handed a bill that is 5 to 7 times more expensive than the work would normally be billed. Tree owners should expect to pay a little extra for ice storm clean-up due to the complexity and higher risk to this work but not the astronomic rates some companies are charging.

E-samples



Bunnies in the belts. As you can see the rabbits have completely cut off the young trunk of this eastern redcedar seedling. Eastern redcedar is not a preferred food for rabbits but since they have never read the books apparently they are not aware of that fact! The way to tell vole and rabbit damage apart is

that rabbits leave marks about ¼ inch wide and there should be droppings near the base of the plant. Vole leave much smaller marks, you will not find droppings and the underside of the branches are often damaged while the top is not.



I also received these pictures of cytospora canker on Colorado spruce. This is a very common disease of spruce, particularly Colorado spruce, and usually the symptoms begin appearing when the tree reaches about 20 years in the landscape. The trees are about 20 feet tall by then, just reaching their full potential as a screen or windbreak, and the lower branches begin

to shed their needles and die. The disease can be seen in bluish-white resin blisters that appear on the dying branches. The only control is to prune out the infected branches and keep the tree healthy by proper watering. The year-long drought has taken its toll on spruce and the stress imposed by the high heat and low moisture has been responsible for disease such as cytospora canker damaging thousands of trees.





I also received this picture of gummy, white pitch on a *Prunus*. This is called gummosis, a general term for gum exuding through the bark. It is produced in response to a wide range of conditions, wounding, canker diseases, and even in response to drought (occasionally insects such as the peach tree borer are associated with the pitch). Since gummosis may be due to many different agents, there is no

single recommendation for its control. Usually pruning out infected branches is the best course of action, but only if the branch is dying. Sometimes the pitch appears but no other damage occurs.

Samples received

Brookings County FL1300003
spruce

Dying lower branches on Colorado

This is cytospora canker. See E-samples for more information on this disease.

Brule County
yellowing and browning tips.

Young (2 to 12 years old) juniper with

This is phomopsis twig blight, one of the most common (along with Kabatina twig blight) fungal diseases of young junipers. I see this lots in young belts and the typical symptoms are yellowing tips occurring in late spring and early summer with the yellowing tips turning red by the following spring, then ashgray before breaking off. The disease rarely kills the trees but can result in stunted, more open, evergreens. Management is limited to fungicides such as those containing mancozeb (Junction is a common one) with the first application made as the growth starts in the spring and a second application about 10 days later.

Davison County
brown?

Why are the tips of my pine turning



This appears to be winter-burn. We had a very dry summer and long, cold winter and this resulted in pines drying out. The tree will recover (particularly since it seems that we might get some moisture this spring, but the tips will remain brown.