

# Pest Update (September 17, 2014)

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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/conservation-forestry/forest-health/tree-pest-alerts/>

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 products identified in this publication.

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## Timely Topics

**Be careful what fruit you pick this fall!** I have received photographs sent in requesting identification as the people were planning to pick the fruit for jam; one of the two plants makes an excellent jam, the other not so nice so read the following carefully! The picture near the top of the next page is the American

cranberrybush viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*), a tall shrub native to South Dakota as well as much of the northern North America from New Brunswick to British



Columbia. It is native to Roberts and Marshall Counties in eastern South Dakota and it is also found in the Black Hills. The plant is widely used as an ornamental and windbreak shrub so it is not difficult to find in South Dakota. At this time of year it is very easy to spot as it becomes covered with bright red, drupe fruit about 1/3 inch diameter. The fruit appears in clusters. Since it is a drupe fruit, similar to cherries,

you'll find a single seed in the center of a juicy fruit. While the fruit makes good jams and preserves, it must be picked at the right time and that is only after the first one or two hard frost. If you pick it before then the fruit is very sour but becomes sweeter (or at least less sour) after frosts. You'll notice the birds usually do not touch the fruit until then, neither should we. American cranberrybush viburnum can be identified by not only its red fruit clusters but the large, 2 to 5-inch long, three lobed leaves that are arranged across from one another on the twig.



**Another fruit send in this week is the common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*).** I frequently receive picture of this fruit in the fall and this is one NOT to eat as doing such will result in violent diarrhea. The fruit is a glossy black, berry-like drupe, about 1/4 inches in diameter. The fruit will occur in clusters along the stem. The leaves are simple, not lobed like the cranberrybush viburnum and they occur almost opposite one another on the shoots,

an arrangement referred to as subopposite. There is also a single thorn at the tip of each stem.

## E-samples



**I received a picture, and now some samples, of a webworm on cotoneaster.** This is the leaf crumpler (*Acrobasis indigenella*) an insect I have been collecting in the region for more than 30 years. This insect feeds on a wide range of Roseaceae shrubs and trees including apples and cherries but has seemed to find a "home" in urban and windbreaks on hedge cotoneaster. The adult moths were flying

earlier this summer and now the eggs have hatched and you can find young larvae feeding on the upper surface of the leaves. They will gradually devouring the entire leaf, except the midrib, as they become larger. The insect also forms a case around itself for hibernation during the winter and resumes feeding in the spring. The silken case is probably what people notice the most, particularly during the winter when these “globs” of darkened dried leaves, silk and frass (insect poop and plant material) are very noticeable. The insect rarely removes enough leaves to harm the shrub.

There is another insect, the true cotoneaster webworm, *A. raciella*, that is more of a problem on the rockspray cotoneaster, a plant not common on the Northern Plains, and occurs most often in western states.



I received a picture of this fruit leaf with a request for identification. The fruit is from the **hedge cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster lucidus*), one of the most common hedge shrubs used in our state. The shrub is noted for good performance on a wide range of sites and excellent hardiness. Its only detractor is the susceptibility to fireblight. The fruit is not poisonous, but can make you sick if you eat a handful or two. The fruit is also very sour, notice the birds

are quickly eating it, and is best left on the plant than harvested.



**Plum curculio**, a small native weevil, has been discussed in previous Updates as a minor pest of apples. It rarely becomes a serious problem on apples due to their thick skin, but on thin-skinned plums, they can easily penetrate and burrow through the developing fruit making very unappetizing to consume. Plum curculio has been a serious pest of plums (and cherries) for more than a century and was mentioned by Professor N.E. Hansen back in 1905 as a problem when growing plums. The female insect

makes a crescent oviposition scar on the fruit to lay the eggs in; quite often this is the extent of the injury on an apple, just a scar. However, on plums and cherries, the newly hatched larvae move into the fruit and will even burrow through the developing seed. One scar on a plum usually means that the fruit is lost. The adults emerge in late summer and they will also feed on the fruit, just some nips on the surface but enough of a wound to allow brown rot and other fungal diseases to gain entry. The insect can be controlled with insecticides containing

carbaryl as the active ingredient applied just as the fruit begins to form in the spring.

## **Samples received/site visits**

Edmunds County                    **This is a three-year old ash tree with sawdust-like material coming from holes at the base of the trees.**

This is the clearwing ash borer. A very common insect in South Dakota and one that can become a killer in young trees. The best treatment is to apply an insecticide containing permethrin as the active ingredient as a trunk spray around the first of May next year. This will kill the adults as they attempt to lay eggs. The borers that are already burrowing through the trees at this time are beyond treatment and you'll just have to hope the trees survival long enough that the insect emerge next spring and you can kill the new adults before more eggs are laid on the trees.

Moody County

**What is this shrub?**

The shrub is the double-flowering plum (*Prunus triloba var multiplex*) an old favorite noted for its attractive spring flowers (but not much else). The plum is already developing discoloration in the leaves, a common occurrence at this time of year.

Perkin County

**What is this shrub?**

This is hedge cotoneaster; see the discussion under e-samples in this *Update*.

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