

Pest Update (June 12, 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/conservation-forestry/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 product identified in this publication.

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Timely Topics



Plant development. We are still way behind in plant development from most years. This week the Miss Kim lilacs in full bloom in Brookings; about a month behind last year and a couple of weeks later than normal.

Treatments you should have done by now or very soon



Spruce bud scale crawlers are hatching. The scale resembles a small round, reddish bud and they can be found on near the tips of the branches where the side branches attach to the shoot. They, and their mobile young called crawlers, suck the sap from the shoots resulting in dieback and decline of the lower branches. Since these are soft scales they produce honeydew that results in a black, sooty appearance to the needles and twigs. The scales have one generation

per year and the crawlers' hatch about the time littleleaf lindens are in bloom – meaning very soon. The time to control them is during the crawler stage. The best treatments are insecticides containing carbaryl as the active ingredient and applied on the foliage and shoots near the tips. Products containing imidacloprid can be effective as a soil drench but need to be applied in the fall for control the following year.



We are also coming up to the time to treat for spruce needleminer. The needleminer (*Endothenia albolineana*) gets its name from it's the fact that the young larvae are so tiny they can live inside the needle, mining it as they feed. They eventually outgrow their home and then create a nest of webbed, detached needles to live in. The larvae usually feed on the lower, exterior needles, almost stripping the tips of needles but they

can also be found in the interior of the tree and even the tops of young trees. The adults are small moths that will begin flying soon and depositing eggs on the needles. Control is usually with a pesticide containing carbaryl as the active ingredient and labeled for this use. The trees should be treated in the next week as the adults begin to take flight.

Information you can use



What can I use to kill weeds around the seedling spruce? This is the question for the past week. I have many producers call wanting a control for the broadleaf weeds coming up around their young Colorado and Black Hills spruce. At this time of year we are looking at post-emergence herbicides to control weeds that have become established. While some herbicides are

labeled for semi-directed applications, now is **NOT** the time to apply them. Clopyralid (common sold as Stinger) is a broadleaf herbicide that can be used around conifers (but not most deciduous trees) and the one most people have called about using. While it is labeled for use during the growing season; it is still best to wait until after the new growth has fully expanded and the needles hardened which is a month or so away – later is better. If applied when the foliage is tender it will result in tip curling and dieback. I also do not recommend it be used as a semi-directed spray; put it on the ground, not over the trees. The label rate must be absolutely followed with blue spruce, do not even think of exceeding the rate, and don't use a surfactant. Also damage can occur in first year plantings of any evergreen so use caution. A final reminder Stinger is labeled for control of weeds in Christmas tree plantations.

E-samples



A common question this week “What are all these bright fruits on the cedars?” These are not the fruits to the “cedars” (these are actually junipers, commonly either Rocky Mountain juniper or eastern redcedar). These red-brown rounded structures are the fruiting bodies for cedar-apple rust and are now producing gelatinous tendrils (horns) that release the spores that infect apple and crabapples (There is also a cedar-hawthorn rust that alternates

between “cedars” and hawthorn among other cedar rust diseases). The disease rarely causes any serious problems on the junipers, though in very heavy infestations the branches may die, but it is a serious problem on the apples, crabapples and hawthorns. The symptoms that will occur on these host plants later this season are yellow to orange spots on the leaves and fruit. Infected leaves and fruit may also fall prematurely. Interestingly, our ornamental junipers such as the creeping juniper, savin junipers and others rarely serve as alternate hosts for this disease; the hosts are primarily our two native species, Rocky Mountain juniper or eastern redcedar.



Cicadas are out for their annual noise fest.

Everyone has probably read the news reports of “Brood II”, the 17-year periodical cicadas that are emerging out East. The news reports discuss adults emerging from the soil in such horrifying descriptions you would think they were covering World War Z. The swarm is appearing from Georgia to

New York and is mostly within 100 miles of the Atlantic coast. We have cicadas in South Dakota, they appear every summer, but generally not in the masses that appear in the East. Our cicadas are garden variety, the dog-day cicadas, which come out every year. Dave, a service forester for the SD Department of Agriculture, sent in a picture of one. The dog-day cicada is a large black insect with greenish markings. They emerge from the soil every year and the sound (described by entomologists as “songs”) from their tree top perches is a familiar part of a warm summer evening. The songs are created by the males, mom is fairly quiet. The adults do not cause much of a problem, except for your sleep. The only damage caused by the adults is some twig damage on trees and shrubs from the egg slits.



Hackberry tatters samples are coming in from Brown, Marshall and Roberts County during the last week. As mentioned in the last Update, tatter is an odd collection of symptoms that are puzzling. The symptoms appear just after the leaves open with the expanding leaves having reduced interveinal tissue, almost a lacy appearance. There are a number of insects and disorders that can create these symptoms including late frosts,

insect skeletonizers and herbicide – all stressors that have been found associated with these symptoms this year – but there are some leaf injuries that cannot be explained by these common problems. Current though is that leaf tatters may be weather related injury caused possibly by cold injury while the leaves were still in the bud. The injury result in some tissue damage and this dead tissue drops out as the leaves open and expand. This is just a theory and it is likely that the actual cause is a combination of stressors rather than just one. Fortunately the leaf damage occurs early enough that the trees will produce more leaves still this season and the tatter problem appears to have little impact on the tree’s health.



I had a weed question the past week. This is hound’s tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), it a biennial weed that occurs in disturbed soils and roadsides. It is native to Europe but has now spread throughout much of the United States.

Samples received

Davison County FL1300009

This shrub was accidentally sprayed with Roundup last year. What is the plant and will it come back?

This is hedge cotoneaster and it can recover (as it apparently is on at least a large portion of the plant) from a light drift. Unfortunately, the plant is also heavily infested with oystershell scale, a sessile, sucking insect, and this will just add to the stress. My suggestion is to cut the entire plant to within 3 inches of the ground this coming winter/spring and when it sprouts back it will be free of the scale and this trimming will clean the dieback from the drift.

Faulk County

Dying spruce trees in a belt. Some trees are looking fine, others are dead and some are dying.

Generally drought has been the overriding factor in spruce decline and death this past spring. It is not unusual to see only some of the tree affected in a belt from drought-stress. However, the sample submitted did not show any reduction in shoot growth and we typically see this with drought-stress so there may be other factors involved in the decline. I will schedule a visit.