

Pest Update (May 11, 2016)

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John Ball, Forest Health Specialist SD Department of Agriculture,
Extension Forester SD Cooperative Extension

Email: john.ball@sdstate.edu

Phone: office 605-688-4737, cell 605-695-2503

Samples sent to: John Ball
Plant Science Department
rm 230, Agricultural Hall, Box 2207A
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007-0996

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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Plant development



The crabapples are still in full bloom along with common lilac. We are a couple weeks ahead of most years but the cooler weather seems to have stalled further development. The crabapples often bloom for only a few days or perhaps a week but the sunny, cool weather has kept them in bloom much longer. The rains this week will probably spell the end of this color display.

Tasks to complete now



Clearwing ash borer treatment with an insecticide containing permethrin as an active ingredient can begin now. The bark must be sprayed to protect the tree as the insecticide will kill the adults as they are walking on the bark to lay their eggs. The insecticide will also kill the newly hatched larvae before they burrow

into the wood. Systemic treatments are generally ineffective so injecting a pesticide or pouring one around the soil are not practical means of managing this particular borer. The adults are usually out flying about a week or so after Vanhouttee spireas begin to bloom and the shrub is flowering now. You will know the adults are flying when you see the pupa skins sticking out of the emergent holes on infested trees.



The buds are beginning to expand on spruce so now is the time to apply a fungicide to protect against **rhizosphaera** or **stigmata needlecast**. These are the most common foliage diseases of blue spruce. These diseases causes the older foliage to turn yellow by midsummer and then purplish-brown. Usually small black fruit bodies can be found in the spring lining the stomata along the needles. The disease results in premature needle drop and a thin and

discolored canopy. The disease can be managed by an application of chlorothalonil now and a second application in about two weeks. If the needlecast

is due to stigma the applications may have to continue every 10-days through August. Also for this needlecast it is important to treat the entire canopy, not just the lower branches.

Tasks to do in a week or two...



Codling moth – the larvae of this insect burrow into the apple, usually near the base of the fruit, resulting in a trail through the apple filled with brown, powdery frass. This frass often extrudes from the entry hole. Treatment is usually an application of malathion sprayed about 10 days after petal fall and then 3 more applications spaced about 10 days apart. Do not spray insecticides on apple trees while they are in bloom! You will kill the pollinators. If you are

using a general fruit multi-purpose spray, it probably has an insecticide in it so these sprays should also not be applied during bloom.



Pine needle scale - appears as a small white, almost tear-drop shaped bump on the needles. It feeds by inserting its beak into the needle and withdrawing sap. The feeding causes yellowing needles and these may also drop prematurely. Heavily infested trees almost appear “flocked” as the foliage looks frosted or silvery from a distance. The insect overwintered as eggs beneath the scale and these are now hatching. The young, called

crawlers will move along the needles and eventually settle and develop the hard armor shell. Since pine needle scales are armored scales, they do not produce the sticky honeydew so common with soft scale or aphid infestations. Treat with 2% horticultural oil or insecticidal soap as these do little harm to the natural enemies of scales. Insecticides containing acephate are also effective but harms natural enemies. All applications should be made beginning about one week after Tatarian honeysuckle blooms (which should be in a week or two) and another application mid-July.

Timely topics

Mushroom hunting, fun but first know your mushrooms! This week I have had samples and pictures sent of two different fungi with the question; “Can I eat them?” First, if you have to ask the question, you probably should not be eating them! However, for general interest I will discuss the two mushrooms I have seen in the last two weeks, morels (which are tasty) and false morels (that can make you sick). Morels (*Morchella*) are one reason many folks cannot wait for

spring because as soon as the lilacs are in bloom, morels are popping up in the forest. Morels are known as one of the “fool-proof” mushrooms, one that is not easily confused with other fungi. Morels have a unique nutty, meaty flavor that is made even better when cooks with a little butter. Morels are about 2 to 6 inches tall with a cap that fuses over the stem on the upper half or more of the mushroom. The hollow cap has irregular pits and ridges and this is one of the identifying features. The other is the light colored stem that is also hollow. Morels are in season right now in much of the state and can be found in woodlands, usually near old elm stumps. However, morels are also known as “mulch mushrooms” as they will sometimes appear the first spring that a shredded wood/bark mulch is put down. Usually they do not appear a second year on the mulch, but it is possible to pick 30 to 60 morels in the landscape beds of a typical home.



While morels are very easy to identify, there are some “close cousins” in the woods that you will want to avoid. One of the false morels, *Gyromitra*, also has a cap, but instead of a cap with pits and ridges, the caps has large rounded folds and it sits on top of the stem. The stem is shorter and much thicker than morels and can sometimes even be branched at the top. It is also often filled with a filament. These are also out in the woods at this time, often in the general vicinity of morels, but should not be eaten.

Finally, do not use this short guide as your means to identify edible mushrooms. Always go on a hunt with a person who has experience in picking morels and can identify them in the field.

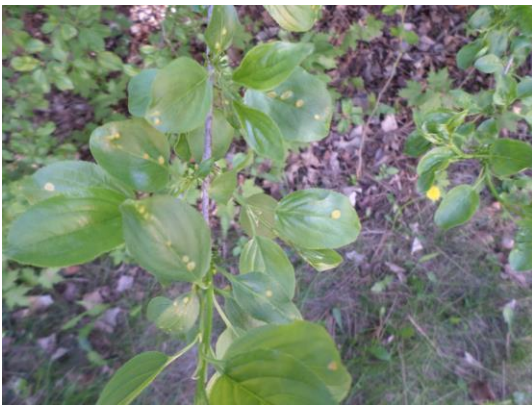
E-samples



The question was about these “pointy” growths on a cedar tree. These are the galls to cedar-apple rust. The galls form on the junipers (cedars) and release spores that infect the apples and crabapples. The infection on apples and crabapples results in discolored foliage and fruit and premature drop of the leaves. The galls on the cedars rarely cause any serious harm to the evergreen, though occasionally a twig that has several gall on

it may turn yellow and die. If the plant is not too large, pruning off the twig with the galls is probably the best way to remove them. However, this will not prevent another infection next spring as new spores will land on the plant this summer.

The formation of these galls is probably a better indicator of when to treat susceptible crabapple and apple trees for cedar-apple rust. The galls are already beginning to form their horns and once these have expanded (probably in another week or two) spores will be released to infect the apples and crabapples. Fungicides containing myclobutanil as the active ingredients can be applied beginning in another week and repeat three more times at 7 to 10 day intervals. Captan, a common fungicide for apple scab is NOT effective against cedar-apple rust.



We are beginning to see a number of rust diseases appearing across the state at this time of year. One of the most common is crown rust of buckthorn. This rust fungus (*Puccinia coronata*) commonly occurs on buckthorns (*Rhamnus*) but may also be found on buffaloberry (*Shepherdia*). The disease appears on the leaves as orange spots with a raised center. Occasionally the disease will also appear on the shoots.

The alternate hosts are grass and cereal crops. There is no recommended treatment for the disease since the most common host is buckthorn, which is considered a weed in this country and we want to kill it.

Samples received / Site visits

Brookings County

What is wrong with my ash tree? Is this from my neighbor's spraying their lawn.



It's always the neighbors fault. But not this time. These long, stringy growths are not deformed leaves but the female flowers on an ash tree. Ash trees are usually dioecious, either male or female. The female flowers are forming now and it seems to be a bumper year as they are very noticeable at this time. This will probably mean an abundant seed crop later this summer.



This is the fall cankerworm. The word 'Fall' applies to when the adults fly, not when the larvae are out and feeding. This insect and its cousin, the spring cankerworm, are common leaf feeding insects on many trees species, though most often a problem on elms, boxelder and ash. The larvae eat small holes in the leaves and later will devour all the leaf tissue but the veins. They can be managed by a number of tactics.

Banding the tree trunk with Tanglefoot[®] or other sticky material in October will prevent the female from climbing the tree to lay eggs (she cannot fly). Treat the leaves with an insecticide containing either carbaryl, permethrin or spinosad as the active ingredient when leaves are fully expanded and the larvae are beginning to feed.

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