

Lake County CES Website

www.extension.purdue.edu/counties/lake/

Editor: Nikky Witowski

Agriculture & Natural Resources/Horticulture Educator

Upcoming Programs

"A Day in the Gardens," LCMGA Garden Walk for information on the event visit:

<http://www.lakecountymastergardeners.com/>

July 8 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Lawn Pest Control (Insects and mammals) with Nikky Witowski, Purdue Extension Educator

July 28 9:00 a.m.

Education Program—"Sharpening Your Pruning Tools"

with Carrie Touscher, DNR

There will be a fee. Sign-up at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2017ToolSharpeningWkshop>

August 25 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Landscape Animal Control Options with Nikky Witowski, Purdue Extension Educator

August 30 6:00 p. m.

"Autumn—Nature's Mosaic" MG Symposium by Lake County Master Gardeners Association

September 16 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

"Hydrangeas: Caring and Top Picks" with Wayne Gruber, Niemeyer's Landscape

November 9 1:00 p.m.

Bagworms can be easily controlled with a spray application of spinosad (Conserve, or Fertilome borer and bagworm killer), or Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel). More details are available on the Purdue Tree Doctor App, or our Bulletin <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-27.pdf>



Figure 3. Overwintering bagworm on maple next leaf injured by young bagworms.

Evergreen Bagworm? Not Forever True.

Writer:: Cliff Sadof,

Department of Entomology, Purdue University

The evergreen bagworm, as its name implies, is well known for its ability to defoliate evergreen trees and shrubs like spruce, arborvitae, fir, junipers and pine. When given a chance, it will also feed on deciduous trees like maples, honeylocust, and crabapples. In late May and early June bagworms hatch from eggs that overwinter in the bag of their mother. Soon after they begin feeding, they cover themselves with leaf tissue. When young bagworms begin feeding on broadleaved plants the caterpillars are too small to feed all the way through, so they leave circular patterns of skeletonization.

Maple Bladder /Spindle Gall

Writer: Nikky Witowski,

Lake County ANR/HORT Extension Educator

These are always something to look for every year. This year I have already seen a high incidence of this type of gall whether it truly is on a maple tree or another tree. There is another similar one called the Spindle Gall that is still red, but usually long and thin rather than round and flatter, but still red usually. These are something that will not harm the tree. Some of the more highly scarred leaves may fall off the tree, but there is no real concern.



Picture Courtesy of the Ohio State Ohioline publication

Why does it happen? There is an extremely tiny mite that starts to feed on the leaf in very early stages of development. From this, the leaf forms a structure in which the mite continues to live and feed in. This goes on most of the summer and then the mite emerges in the fall to find a winter hiding place so that it can start the process over again the next year.

There is not much you can do about this insect. You can do leaf clean-ups to help prevent a severe outbreak, but it is not going to hurt the mites. No insecticides are recommended for Maple Bladder/Spindle Gall so the best option would be to live with it and enjoy nature.

Anthracnose of Shade Trees or Wind Injury: Look Alike Symptoms Can Be Perplexing

Writer: Gail Ruhl, Senior Plant Disease Diagnostician

The cool, wet, weather experienced periodically this spring has been ideal for the development of anthracnose on shade trees. Anthracnose is the common name for a type of leaf spot and canker disease caused by certain kinds of fungi. Anthracnose diseases affect many trees, but are particularly prevalent on ash, maple, sycamore, white oak, walnut and dogwood. Each species of tree is infected by a different species of fungus, thus the fungus does not spread from oak to maple or maple to ash or ash to sycamore. A different fungal species is also responsible for dogwood anthracnose.

Symptoms will vary depending on the type of tree and the stage of plant development at the time of infection: leaf spots or blotches; twig dieback and wilting; and browning or death of emerging leaves are all possible. Premature leaf drop often occurs with anthracnose diseases, however, most of the trees infected with anthracnose usually show good resilience, and are not permanently damaged by this early season leaf blight. have also occurred this spring and may also cause foliar symptoms similar to anthracnose on various deciduous trees.

Sycamore anthracnose causes severe blighting of newly emerging leaves and shoots, and eventually causes twig and branch cankers which distort growth. Twig and branch cankers, shoot blight, and leaf blight are all symptoms of the fungus that causes sycamore anthracnose. Leaflet drop, as well as dead tissue along leaf veins or at the leaf edges is a symptom for ash

anthracnose. Although defoliation may be so great that anthracnose-infected leaflets practically carpet the walks and lawns nearby, the tree is not dying, it simply puts out a new set of leaves. Anthracnose symptoms on maple and oak range from leaf spots to enlarged blighted dead areas along veins and sometimes to shoot blight.

Abiotic (noninfectious) injury from environmental factors such as excessive winds or late frost/cold damage have also occurred this spring and may also cause foliar symptoms similar to anthracnose on various deciduous trees.



Maple Anthracnose

The most appropriate course of action for established trees suffering from severe effects of anthracnose is to rake and remove fallen leaves from beneath the tree; stimulate vigorous new growth with a balanced fertilizer after the leaves open and the spring rains have stopped; water regularly during extended dry periods this summer; avoid irrigation systems that [wet leaves](#). [Leaf Diseases BP-143-W](#) (pdf file)

Flower & No Fruit... or Veggies?

Writer: Ward Upham, Kansas State Extension Associate

Source: Horticulture 2009 Newsletter, No. 17

If you have vegetables that are blooming but not setting fruit, you may have a problem with flower pollination. There are several possible reasons for this that usually vary by species. However, we do have one condition that can affect several species at the same time and that is over-fertilization. Too much nitrogen causes the plant to emphasize vegetative growth often to the detriment of fruit production. Over-fertilization can lead to a delay in flower production as well as to a decrease in fruit set among the flowers that are produced.

Squash can have a couple of other problems. First, the early flowers on these plants are usually all male. The production of both male and female flowers becomes more balanced as time passes. You can easily tell the difference between the two because only the female flower has a tiny fruit behind the blossom. If you have both, haven't over-fertilized and still have a problem, make sure you have pollinators. Look for the presence of bees visiting the plants. If you don't see any, try hand-pollinating several flowers. Use a painter's brush to transfer pollen from the anther of the male flower to the stigma of the female flower. If you get fruit on only those flowers you pollinated, you need more pollinators. Make sure you aren't killing them with overuse of insecticides.

Tomatoes are wind pollinated and therefore are not dependent on pollinators. But they have another possible problem, which is temperature. Tomatoes normally won't set if the night temperature is below 50 due to sparse production of pollen. They also won't set when night temperatures are above 75 degrees F and day temperatures are above 95 degrees F with dry, hot winds.

Cottony Maple Scale Information

Writer: Nikky Witkowski,
Purdue University Extension Educator, Lake County

It has been discovered again, in Lake County, that some maple trees have a severe infestation of Cottony Maple Scale. Normally, natural predators or conditions are able to suppress the insects so that they do not become a nuisance and do not cause damage. This is an insect that can occur any year, but usually doesn't due to presence of natural enemies.

If you have gotten a stickiness on either your vehicle, sidewalks, driveways, or other areas around the house, you may have had some of these in your area. The insect settles on the stems of trees and sucks the juices (sap) from the tree. Some of the sap is secreted, which causes the stickiness that you see on various surfaces. The end effect on the tree is that the leaves suffer to the point of yellowing and death. The secretion can have another effect: turning black due to sooty mold, a fungus. This fungus does not cause problems, it just turns everything black, including the leaves and stem of the tree.

Getting back to the scale, what can you do about it?

Infections must be caught in an early enough stage to treat the trees. The scale forms a protective covering that insecticides cannot easily penetrate. There are certain chemicals that can translocate in the tree and control the scale, but those are targeted more at the younger scales, not the adults. The treatment time is typically in June, but the that ideal window may have passed due to the warmer weather we experienced this year.

The best advice is to live with it, due to the upcoming weather. You can use applications of cyfluthrin (may be sold under Bayer or other companies) or imidacloprid around the base of the tree. However, the product will NOT be up taken by the tree if there is no moisture/rain. Therefore, you will have to water your tree in order to stop the insects from turning your stuff black. The good news is that, despite some limb death of smaller branches which may be seen the rest of this year and early next year, it is highly unlikely for the entire tree to die from the scale.

Scales should not be the primary reason for a tree to die as most of the affected maples are street trees, which are already stressed and weakened by other factors.

If you do have the stickiness or black covering, power washing is the best thing for most surfaces. Obviously cars would do best with just being washed due to their paint, but most other surfaces may just need a good power washing to help get rid of it. You may also see ants or other insects, such as picnic beetles, around the area as they want a nice sweet snack. Once the area is cleaned, they should disappear.

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