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“WHAT’S GROWING ON”

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APHIDS

There are dozens of species of aphids that may be found on shade trees and woody ornamental shrubs. Aphids are small insects that are usually less than 1/4 inch long and their colors range from red to gray.

The honeydew that aphids excrete can cause leaf curls but will not seriously harm a plant. Some types found in Colorado lay eggs in the fall on dormant plants, which hatch new aphids in spring. This causes the aphid generations to multiply rapidly.

There are natural forms of control for aphids, such as natural enemies like ladybugs, syrphid flies, and small parasitic wasps. There are also some insecticides that can be applied to prevent plant injury. The most common insecticide for homeowners is Orthene and Cygon, but licensed pesticide applicators tend to use Merit, DiSyston, Acephate, or they may even apply a insecticidal soap. Smaller trees and shrubs can be can be sprayed with high pressure water to wash off aphids and remove the honeydew they produce.



Aphids



Lady Bug



IPS Beetle

IPS BEETLES

The Ips is a common group of bark beetles that infests pine & spruce trees. They excavate tunnels underneath bark that can cause dieback and possibly kill the host. Ips beetles are small, on average only 1/8 – 3/8 inches long, and are reddish brown to black. They have a pronounced cavity at the rear end, which is lined with 3-6 pairs of tooth like spines.

Out of the eleven types of ips beetles in Colorado, most of them rarely infest a healthy tree; instead they prefer a newly transplanted tree or a tree that is under stress, such as root damage. One factor that recently contributed to ips beetle problems in Colorado is prolonged drought stress.

As beetles tunnel into the bark, a yellowish or reddish brown boring dust is produced and accumulates down the side of and around the base of the tree. Symptoms may be limited at first, such as single branch or the top. However the attacks may progress over time and ultimately the host can die.

Insecticides can be used to deter the ips beetle; these usually contain permethrin, bifenthrin, or carbaryl. With two applications of preventive insecticide one in early spring & then summer, the beetle can be deterred during the infestation season. The concentration of insecticide against the ips beetle is higher than typical products, so the application is regulated to the bark areas only.

Sources: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension