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COMMON TREE AND SHRUB PESTS OF NEBRASKA

By Robert E. Roselle, Lloyd W. Andersen, David L. Keith
Agricultural Extension Entomologists

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1. OYSTERSHELL SCALE: This insect infests many varieties of ornamental plants. It is especially damaging to lilac. The winter is passed in the egg stage under the mother scales. Eggs hatch about June 1. The young "crawlers" move to a suitable location on the host plant and begin to feed by sucking sap from the plant. Eggs are deposited in the late summer and early fall. It is important to control this insect by spraying when crawlers are active, and before the protective covering is formed.

2. MAPLE BLADDER GALL: Galls are caused by microscopic mites attacking leaves soon after the leaves unfold in the spring. They only occur on soft maples. Although the small red, green, or black galls on the upper surface of leaves are unsightly, they do not harm trees. Spraying in the spring before leaf buds break may reduce the numbers of galls.

3. FLATHEADED BORER: Several kinds of flatheaded borers attack many shade and fruit trees. Trees in weakened condition are subject to attack. Healthy trees are seldom damaged. Prevent borer attack by wrapping young trees, spraying the trunks, and keeping trees in vigorous growing condition by watering and fertilizing when needed.

4. APHIDS: Many kinds of aphids attack shade trees, fruit trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. The giant bark aphid pictured here is common on oak and willow in Nebraska. All aphids secrete "honeydew," which attracts other insects. All aphids feed by sucking sap from the host plant. Control by spraying with an insecticide that kills by contact.

5. PINE NEEDLE SCALE: This small, chalky-white scale attacks pine and spruce. Winter is spent in the egg stage under the mother scales. Eggs hatch in late May or early June. A second brood occurs in late July or August. This second brood deposits the overwintering eggs. They feed by sucking sap from the leaves. Heavy infestations will kill branches of evergreens. Control by spraying at the time crawlers are present.

6. BAGWORM: Bagworms feed on many kinds of evergreen and deciduous plants. Evergreens can be killed by bagworms. There is one generation each year. Winter is spent in the egg stage in bags that hang on plants. Eggs hatch in June, the caterpillars feeding until August. The wingless female deposits the overwintering eggs in the well constructed bag which is attached to the host plant. Control by picking off old bags in the winter and early spring, or spraying infested trees in late June.

7. SMALLER EUROPEAN ELM BARK BEETLE: This small, dark brown beetle is the principal carrier of Dutch elm disease in Nebraska. Winter is spent in the larva stage under the bark of elm trees that perished the past growing season. In the spring, usually about mid-May, the larvae change to pupae and adults emerge. Feeding of adults on healthy elms may transmit Dutch elm disease. Adults are attracted to dying elms to deposit eggs. Larvae feed in galleries under the bark as pictured.

8. ELM LEAF BEETLE. Elm leaf beetles feed on leaves of Siberian (Chinese) and American elms. Larvae skeletonize leaves by feeding on the underside. Heavily infested trees appear brown. Adults overwinter in buildings, often becoming a household pest during the winter and spring. After feeding, larvae crawl to the base of trees to change into the beetle stage. There are two generations each year.

9. EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR: Larvae are leaf feeding insects of many fruit and ornamental trees. Overwintering eggs are laid in bands around twigs. Eggs hatch in the spring as leaves emerge. Silken tents are constructed in the crotches of trees as young larvae feed on leaves.

10. YELLOW-NECKED CATERPILLAR: Yellow-necked caterpillars feed on leaves of many kinds of ornamental and fruit trees in the summer. They feed in colonies, skeletonizing the leaves, and may eat all of the leaves except the mid-rib.

11. SPRUCE MITE: Spruce mites and other tiny mites are common on juniper, pine, spruce, and other evergreens. Sap is sucked from the foliage causing a brownish discoloration. Mites have several generations during the spring and summer. Warm, dry weather hastens development.

CONTROL INFORMATION: Control recommendations for the insects pictured and others can be found in the following publications:

EC 68-1502, "Insect Control Recommendations for Ornamental Plants and Lawns"

EC 67-1845, "Dutch Elm Disease"

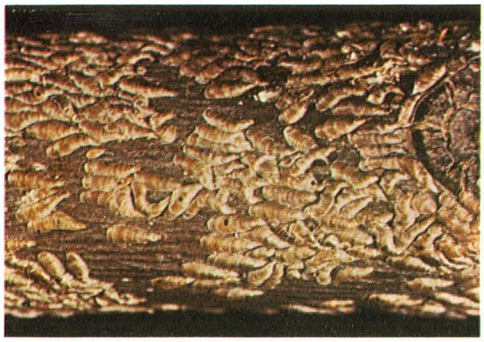
EC 57-1579, "Insect Pests of American Elms"

Single copies of these publications are available without charge to Nebraska residents. These and many other circulars are available at your local County Extension Office.

Extension Service
University of Nebraska College of Agriculture and Home Economics and U.S. Department of Agriculture
Cooperating
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

COMMON TREE AND SHRUB PESTS

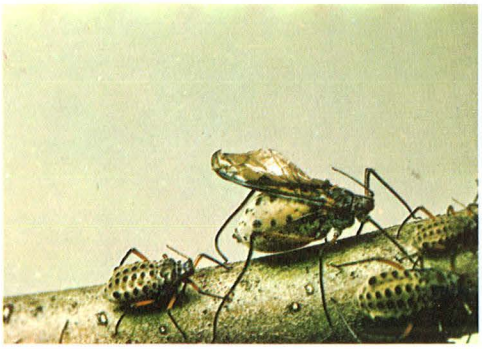
For safe and effective use of insecticides, always identify the problem correctly.



1. Oystershell scale

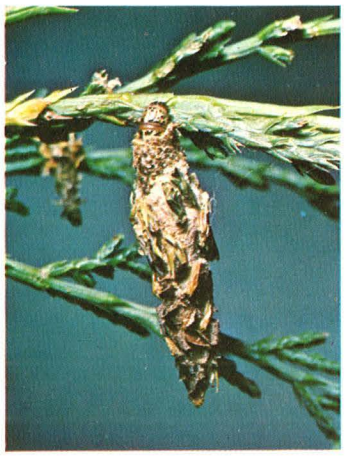
2. Maple bladder gall

3. Flatheaded borer

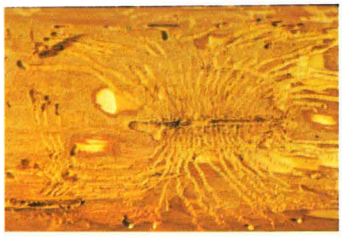


4. Aphid

5. Pine needle scale



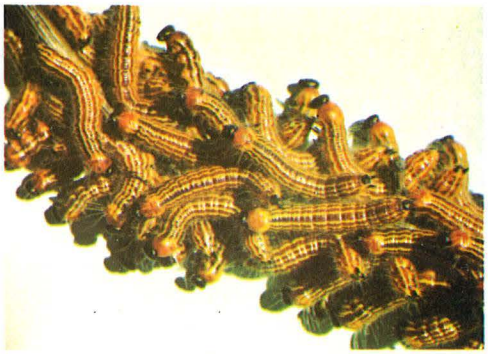
6. Bagworm



7. Smaller European elm bark beetle and galleries

8. Elm leaf beetle and larvae

9. Eastern tent caterpillar



10. Yellow-necked caterpillar

11. Spruce mite injury

Prepared by Extension Entomologists of the North Central States in cooperation with the Federal Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture