

WHAT ABOUT INSECTS IN TREES?

It appears several insects are showing up in trees this year. The oak lace bug is usually common in area, and may be identified as feeding on your oak trees. Healthy trees can usually withstand feeding from oak lace bugs without treatment with an insecticide. Some people have seen a few bagworms. They are later than usual this year and can be showing up on coniferous trees and shrubs, such as junipers, red cedar, arborvitae and spruce. There are several types of sprays that can be used for control the bagworm this time of year. If you want to use something natural, BT is effective in controlling bagworms and can be purchased as Dipel from most garden centers. The small larvae can be controlled chemically by Sevin, Eight, DeltaGard, Orthene or malathion, among other things.

Another pest very similar to an insect that is again causing problems this summer is the spider mite. Spider mites are usually a problem on some of the cedar and spruce trees each year. People have seen them this year as well. If left untreated, they could kill a small evergreen tree. Trees infested with spider mites turn a yellow or bronze in color. Spider mites are very tiny, being only about 1/50 inch when adults. Many are web producing and will coat the foliage with a fine silk web that collects dust and gives it a dirty appearance. For control of the spider mite, the use of horticultural oil and insecticidal soap are a couple of the safer methods of control. These products work by contact only, so thorough coverage of the plant is important. Some insecticides are classified as weak miticides but are available over the counter. These include Orthene, Kelthane and malathion. There are also miticides available to use for control, with some being restricted use chemicals. Whatever product you use be sure to follow label directions. Check your local garden center for products available to control spider mites. We have a guide that provides control measures for several pests and also individual guides that discuss specific control of pests. Feel free to contact me at the University of Nebraska Extension office in Nemaha County (402) 274-4755.

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