Pest Update (December 2013)

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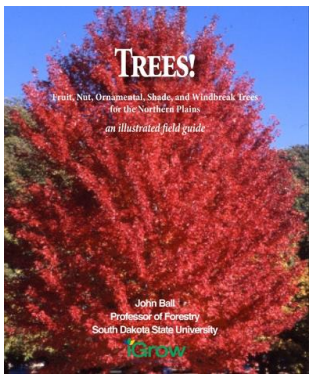
Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insects from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, instead please send a digital picture of the pest or problem. **Walnut samples may not be sent from any location – please provide a picture!**

Available on the net at:
http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/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 product identified in this publication.



Timely Topics

The tree book is finally out! The long anticipated book ***TREES!*** *Fruit, Nut, Ornamental, Shade and Windbreak Trees for the Northern Plains* is finally available. This book, decades in the making, covers the 80 genera, almost 300 species and more than 450 cultivars of trees that can be grown on the Northern Plains. The book includes information on site requirements, rootstocks,

flowering and fruiting and numerous other facts on every tree. The book contains pictures of these trees as well as line drawing of the leaves. The 499 page soft cover book is available through iGrow at the link below.

http://igrow.org/product/trees-an-illustrated-field-guide/

Samples received

Brown County **The tips of my pines are curling. Is this diplodia tip blight?**

No, while stunted shoots are a common symptom for tip blight, curling- referred to as a shepherd's crook- is usually associated with other stressors. The most common reason for curled terminals is pine tip moth and that was the case with this sample. At the base of the crook there was a small clump of powder and once that was craved away the tunnel parked with brown frass was clearly visible running down through the shoot. The shoot tip also crumbled very easily and this is another common symptom of shoots infested by the tip moth.

The insect is in the pupal stage now and these are found in the litter, rather than the tree. Next spring the adult moths will emerge and fly to lay eggs on the newly forming shoot. The easiest control is to spray an insecticide containing permethrin, and labelled for control of tip moths, just as the new shoots are expanding and repeat in about three weeks.

Meade County **Is this mountain pine beetle or ips?**

Mountain pine beetle and the pine engraver beetle, often referred to by its scientific name *Ips* spp are common bark beetles in the Black Hills. The insects in the sample were the mountain pine beetle adults stuck in pitch. The size of the adults for these insects overlap, abut 1/8 to 1/3 inch, but the engraver beetle has notches on the end of the abdomen with pronounced spines. These do not occur on the mountain pine beetle. Mountain pine beetles stuck in the globs of pitch are indicators of unsuccessful attack – the tree wins.

Perkins County **This Austrian pine appears to have a white fungus growing out of the branch tips. What might be the problem?**

A white fungus did not appear in the sample provided but the needles had the common symptoms for dothistroma, a common disease of pines (though one that is often misidentified). I will be examining the sample closer and determine if this banding and discoloration is due the disease and get back to you with some recommendation. The growth pattern on the pine also indicates the tree was stressed last year, 2012, based on the "bottlebrush" appearance to the other growth, short needles that are clustered close together.