Pest Update (September 11, 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

We should be soon entering the fall color time period so just a couple of items relating to this seasonal phenomenon. First the color changes begin in response to the shortening days and the cooler temperatures. The leaves stop producing chlorophyll (the green color) and some trees species at the same time begin

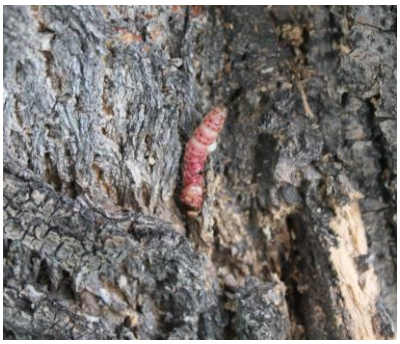
producing anthocyanin (the red-purple colors). Yellows (carotene and xanthophylls pigments) also begin to appear, not because the tree is beginning to produce them – in fact they are always present – but as chlorophyll disintegrates these pigments are unmasked.

Trees noted for their brilliant red autumn foliage color includes red (seen in picture to the left) and sugar maples (as well as the many Freeman maple cultivars), sumac and red oaks. Trees that have bright yellow fall color include ginkgo, quaking aspen and sometimes even honey locust as well as 'Harvest gold' linden. Catalpa, sycamore and black locust have little foliage color change.

Foliage color is best when we have combination of dry, sunny and cool weather during autumn. Rainy, cloudy weather will reduce the intensity of fall color.

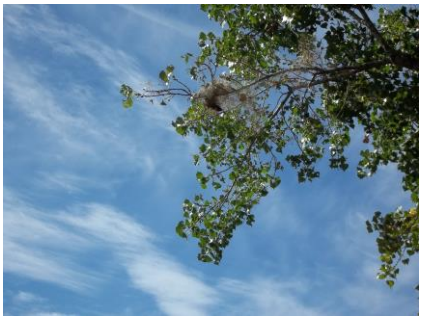
E-samples

About every three years or so, at this time of year, I get an interesting picture of what appears to be very fine webbing or slime on the bark of the tree that people describe as "moving." This is not a fungus, but an insect known as **barklice, Psocids**. These insects can be found in late summer congregating along the base of the tree, particularly when we have warm, humid conditions. The individual insects are very small, less than 3/16 inch long, and are usually white or gray. The insects feed on mold, fungi (even glue for book binding so also known as booklice) but do not harm the tree at all.



I received a good picture of a **carpenterworm larva** on from an ash tree. We generally associate the clearwing ash borer (*Podosesia*) or either the banded or redheaded ash borer (*Neoclytus*) with ash but, and particularly West River, I see a lot of mature ash infested by the carpenterworm. This insect is a common borer of ash, cottonwood, elms and poplars and is usually found in declining trees. The extensive tunneling by this insect can also further the decline of its host and infested trees frequently have branches break off. The adult is a moth which flies in early summer and lays eggs in bark crevices or wounds. The eggs hatch in a just less than two weeks and the larvae burrow in the wood leaving a mass of sawdust at the entrance hole. The entrance holes are often found along the lower trunk or in a branch crotch. The larvae can continue to tunnel for three years so it can be a

long process to rid a tree of the insect since systemic treatments are not effective. The best treatment is treating the trunk with a pesticide containing permethrin in late May. It may take three years of annual treatments to eliminate an infestation.



Fall webworm has formed its nests on the tips of branches by now and the larvae have finished most of their feeding. While the nests are unsightly, almost 2 or 3 feet long and filled with leaf fragments, insect poop and cast skins, there is little value to spraying at this time of year. The larvae have just about finished feeding and soon will be dropping to the ground to pupate. Spraying now is what we call “revenge spraying”, makes you feel good but really does not help the tree or reduce the possibility of another attack next year.

Samples received

Brookings County FL1300028 **What is this “mucus” oozing out of the tree?**

This is the bacterial disease called wetwood. This can be found in the trunk and branches of elms, cottonwoods among other species. The “ooze” has a dark color and a foul odor. It is also under high gas pressure and will leak out of the tree at branch and trunk cracks and fissures. The liquid is also very alkaline and will bleach the bark as it runs down the tree. While it can appear unsightly, it actually causes little harm to the tree, though during periods of drought the infection can move to the cambial zone and girdle the tree. Once holes were drilled into the trunk to drain out the wetwood but this process often resulted in further decay and is no longer recommended.

Lake County FL1300027 **What is the fuzzy material on the apple?**

This is the woolly apple aphid. This insect receives its name from the white waxy covering on the adult aphids and is easy to spot as it lines branches. The aphid is very common but is often overlooked until the white clusters of insects appear, usually mid-summer. The insect is often found around the base of apple and crabapple trees usually clustered around the succulent growth

of wounds such as those created by hitting the tree with the lawn mower or grass whip. The aphids can also be found lining branches. Winged females fly to nearby elms in the fall and lay eggs. These eggs will hatch in the spring and the young nymphs feed on elm leaves resulting in distortions to the leaves before becoming winged adults and migrating to the apples. The insects rarely are serious problems for elm or apple, but can be managed with a spring application of an insecticide containing imidacloprid applied as a soil drench (for fruiting trees where the fruit will not be harvested). This will kill the insects as they feed on crabapple host. If found on an apple tree, the best management is a spray of malathion when the insect is first noticed.