

# Pest Update (August 6, 2008)

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## Available on the net at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/Forestry/educational-information/Pest-Alert-Archives.htm>.

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.

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## Plant development (Phenology) for the growing season



The Ural false-spireas are now in full bloom in Brookings. It appears we finally caught up to a “normal” season.

## Storm damage in the Northeast



Late last week the northeastern part of our state was struck by a series of storms that brought wind gusts exceeding 70 mph. These high winds, combined with wet soils, resulted in thousands of trees being uprooted or broken from Aberdeen to Milbank. Craig Brown, service forester from Watertown, took this top picture of fallen trees in Webster. The lower picture I took of some uprooted spruce in Milbank. It appears that the Webster-Waubay region suffered the worst of the storm and is bearing the brunt of the tree clean-up. A reminder to all those homeowners who are attempting to do their own

storm clean-up is that tree work is among the highest risk activities and working with down and broken trees increases the hazards and the potential for a serious accident to the amateur tree worker. Homeowners are often injured and occasionally killed while engaging in such activity as they do not realize the force contained in a bent tree until the spring pole is released and the branch and saw snaps back on them. Homeowners often are not wearing the proper personal protective equipment such as heavy boots, cut-resistant chaps, gloves, hard hat, and eye and ear protection when operating a chain saw and these results in



thousands of preventable saw injuries. Storm clean-up is best left to professional tree workers. However, just because someone has a pick-up and a chain saw does not make them a professional tree worker. Homeowners should check to be certain the company has the proper insurance, not just auto insurance but liability and worker's compensation insurance otherwise the homeowner may find that they become financially responsible for any injuries to the workers or damage to property – not the company!

## E-Samples



**Tar spot** is showing up even more across the state and this, along with chlorosis, is making for a lot of unsightly Freeman, red and silver maple trees. The disease begins as greenish-yellow spot in late June and then develops into these black tar-like structures within a month. The remaining leaf tissue is usually chlorotic. The treatment for the disease is two-fold. First, if practical, remove and destroy the fallen leaves this autumn to reduce the overwintering fungus. Next year treat

the tree with a Bordeaux mixture as the leaves expand and repeat the application about two weeks later.

**There have been a number of calls and e-mails concerning declining black walnut trees.** The decline begins with yellowing and thinning of the canopy, followed by dieback and eventually the entire tree dies. While this decline may be due to a multitude of stressors, including the persistent drought in the western part of the state and country, there is also the possibility we are seeing thousand cankers disease in association with



twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*). The insect is a small yellowish-brown bark beetle about 1/8 inch long (or shorter). It has been previously described and has been found in declining walnuts though the suspect for the decline has been drought with the beetle only appearing to colonize already dying branches. Now the beetle has been linked to canker fungi (*Geosmithia* spp and *Fusarium solani*). This recently described canker disease often is the result of literally hundreds of

cankers forming on the branches and trunk resulting in branch dieback. The cankers are not readily visible and often are not discovered until the bark has been removed around a chamber created by the beetle. Once this bark, sometimes with an amber stain, has been scrapped away, a dark brown to black canker will appear. Presently this problem is found in more western states but there is the possibility the disease is present here and I will be visiting some of these declining trees in the next week. However it is important to point out we do not have a record of this insect being found in South Dakota nor the cankers so our state walnut decline may be due to other factors.

## **Samples received**

Bon Homme County (Extension)

**What is causing these cedars to turn brown?**

In this instance it is juniper twig blight caused by phomopsis. While the symptoms are similar, yellowish-brown shoot that turn red then brown, the time period these symptoms occur differs with Kabatina symptoms usually expressed in the spring with the foliage dropping by June, phomopsis symptoms often develop later, May through September. There are also differences in the fruiting bodies that develop on the shoot. Katabina's occur mostly in early spring and then diminish from then while phomopsis appear in the summer. Control for phomopsis is mancozeb applied beginning in late May, then every 14-days until the weather turns dry.

Campbell County (Extension)

**Here are some poplar samples from**

**Herreid. What is causing this browning?**

This is venturia shoot and leaf blight. The common symptoms are dark brown to black lesions appearing on the leaves and the attached shoots also turning black, drooping and becoming brittle. The disease most commonly affects young trees, those less than 15

to 20 feet tall, rarer on larger trees. No control is effective at this time and the problem may be less next year if May does not turn out as wet!

Davison County (Extension)

**What is this tree? The parent was cut down but these are the sprouts that are coming up.**

This is called the Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This is an exotic tree, introduced from China, which has become a weed in much of the rest of the country. Fortunately our cold winters limits this tree to the southern half of the state and outside of Yankton and Vermillion they rarely become large trees.

Douglas County (Extension)

**What is this shrub?**

When I saw the picture I thought perhaps it was a chokeberry but now that I have the sample it is easy to identify the plant as western sand cherry (*Prunus besseyi*). This is a suckering shrub with a mature height of about 6 feet. The summer fruit is sweet and purplish black about ¾ inch long. The flowers are its true attraction and it is one of the nicest cherries in bloom.

Grant County (Extension)

**What is causing this blackening of the maple leaves?**

This is not tar spot, but anthracnose, *Discula* spp. The difference is with anthracnose the young leaves become blackened and shriveled, sometimes along with the shoot. Tar spot disease appears as hard, tar-like spots on the leaves. I do not recommend control of anthracnose on maples. The fungicide has to be applied just as the buds are expanding in the spring with two more treatments spaced 10 days apart – a tough thing for homeowners to time. Also unless we have rains just at the right (or wrong in this instance) time, early May, the disease will not develop.

Grant County (Extension)

**What is wrong with this hydrangea?**

This is the Endless Summer hydrangea, a plant that does not perform well in our region and this plant is letting you know that.

Haakon/Jackson Counties (Extension)

**What is wrong with this lilac? Many of them in the yard look like this.**

This faint, powdery dust is the fungal disease powdery mildew, a very common disease of lilacs, particularly if the lilacs are in an area with shade and poor air circulations. However, I find the disease even on lilacs in open, windy sites. The disease is not serious enough on this plant to warrant control but if they do decide to spray Daconil (chlorothalonil is the active ingredient) is probably the most easily obtainable fungicide in your area. They should make at least two applications of the chemical, spaced 10 days apart.

Hand County (Extension)

**What is wrong with Deb's shrub?**

This is common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), considered a weed in most of the country so people do not worry about controlling disease on them – the plant is the pest. The yellowish green swollen spots on the leaves are due to the fungal disease

crown rust, a disease that is more a problem on the alternate host, cereal crops. I would remove the buckthorn.

Lake County (Extension)

**What is this problem on the willow?**

This is willow scab, a disease that results in wilting leaves and shoots as well as dieback of the tree. The disease is generally only a problem when we have wet springs so hopefully the tree will recover, with some pruning, this summer as the weather dries.

Tripp County (Extension)

**What is this tree? It has pink blossoms in the spring and summer fruit. Is the fruit safe to eat?**

This is the purpleleaf sandcherry (*Prunus x cistena*). The spring flowers are pink and fragrant and the summer fruit is a large blackish purple drupe. The fruit is safe to eat, but it is not generally planted for the fruit, just the flowers.