

Pest Update (April 8, 2009)

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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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Emerald ash borer found in western Wisconsin.

An infestation was found in western Wisconsin, about 20 miles south of La Crosse, near the border with Minnesota and Iowa. This is the farthest west an infestation has been detected and considering its size and distance from other infestations it raises the concern that there may be, and most likely are, undetected infestations even further west. There is the possibility that

South Dakota has an infestation though none have been detected at this time. It is probably only a matter of time, a rather short time, perhaps a year or two, that

an infestation will be detected in South Dakota. When it is found, most likely it will have been established in the general vicinity for several years or more. No one finds the first borer in the first tree in a state. It is critical that people be observant of pockets of dead and dying ash and report these as soon as possible. While we have limited means of preventing the insect from entering the state, once discovered we can at least slow its further spread, buying time for producers, homeowners and communities to plant different tree species thus reduce its impact for the beetles eventually arrival. One common means of identifying new pockets of infested ash is to look for dead or dying ash with extensive bark injury from woodpeckers. These birds are feeding on the larvae of the insect.

How many fruit trees do I have to buy to get fruit? This is a question I receive every year so the following is the pollination requirements for the fruit trees we plant in South Dakota.

Self-fruitful – these fruit trees and shrubs are able to pollinate themselves and you only need the one plant to have fruit set.

- European plums (Stanley and Mount Royal)
- Sour cherries
- Apricots (except for the two cultivars Sungold and Moongold)
- Peaches and nectarines
- Strawberries
- Raspberries
- Currants (except black)
- Gooseberries
- Grapes

Self-sterile – these fruit trees and shrubs will not accept their own pollen and must be pollinated by different cultivars. Just having two trees is not enough. The trees must be two *different* cultivars. The two trees should also be within 50 feet of one another. Not every combination of cultivars will yield fruit. Haralson apples, for example, cannot serve as a pollinator for Haralred apples, as the two cultivars are closely related. Some cultivars are pollen sterile, meaning they do not provide pollen for the other trees. Two examples of pollen sterile trees are the South Dakota pear cultivars Gourmet and Luscious. They will accept pollen from other trees but not produce viable pollen. Finally many self-sterile trees do produce some fruit even if grown along. You might find that a Honeycrisp apple, for examples, still produces some apples even if there are no apples or crabapples nearby.

- Apple and crabapples (they can serve as pollinators to each other)
- Pear
- Hybrid plums (Toka is a great pollinator)
- Apricots (Moongold and Sungold, other cultivars are self-fruitful)
- Sweet cherries
- Blueberries
- Nanking cherry

This does not mean all these fruit trees and shrubs will grow throughout South Dakota. Sweet cherries have limited hardiness and except for some of the zone 5 locations in the state, are not reliable producers. The same is true for peaches and nectarines.



We had a very successful fruit tree pruning workshop this last week (between snow storms). Now is a very good time to get out and complete your fruit tree pruning before the buds start to expand. You should also take this opportunity to finish pruning your other trees. However, after April 1st you should avoid pruning your oaks and elms as fresh pruning wounds may serve as an attractant to the insects that carry oak wilt and Dutch elm disease to these hosts.

Samples received

These are samples that were received but the problem was not really identified until I stopped by to look at the trees.



The first problem was declining Scotch pines. The needles were discoloring and falling prematurely. The sample that was sent in did not show any signs of pathogens or insects that would cause this discoloration. However, when I visited the site, the problem became clear. Pines are not tolerant of poorly drained or saturated soils. The trees were along a marsh/pond and the water drained through the tree belt. The trees that

were lowest in the belt were the ones most affected.



The second problem was discoloration and decline of junipers in a roadside windbreak. The problem was juniper twig blight caused by the fungus *Phomopsis juniperovora*. The typical symptoms are yellowing then browning of the newest foliage. This foliage usually dies and becomes an ashy-grey within a season. The best control is prune out dead and dying branches to improve air circulation and treat

the trees with mancozeb at 14-day intervals beginning as the shoot growth begins in mid-May and continuing until the growth ceases in early summer as the

weather turns drier. This is a common disease in mature shelterbelts of Rocky Mountain juniper and eastern redcedar as the trees become crowded from the tight initial planting and this competition, poor air circulation and shading provide a good environment for the fungus to develop. There are two other pathogens responsible for juniper twig blight, *Kabatina juniperi* and *Cercospora sequoia* and it is important to identify which pathogen is responsible for the tree's decline as treatment options and timing differs.