



HOME & GARDEN

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Woody Ornamental Landscape Plant Tips

Culture

- Apply mulch 1-3 inches deep and keep it away from tree trunks. Mature trees do not benefit from being mulched. They should only be mulched to keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from trunks.
- Tree branches should only be pruned if they are dead or damaged. Wait until your trees are dormant, (when leaves have fallen from deciduous trees, usually no earlier than late October or November) for all other corrective and cosmetic pruning.

Insects

- Fall webworm is very active now. This late summer pest is a 1-2 inch long hairy caterpillar that creates large tent like nests on the ends of branches of various shade trees and shrubs. It is unsightly but causes little damage. They can be left alone or knocked out of the tree with a broom, by a hard water spray, or pruning them out and disposing of them in the trash.
- Numerous caterpillars, including leafrollers, orange striped oak worm, green-striped maple worms, oak skeletonizers and sawflies are feeding on various shade trees. No controls are necessary unless feeding is severe. You may also see some large and unusual caterpillars with various colored spines and knobs that have been feeding in trees and are getting ready to pupate. These are mostly giant silk moths and should be left alone.
- Bagworms are very noticeable and feeding on many trees and shrubs. They are not a problem on deciduous plants, but should be controlled on evergreens. It is now too late to spray them with a biological control product. Where possible, remove bagworm bags from evergreen trees and shrubs, especially spruces. Throw them into a bag and place in the trash. Do not just drop them to the ground as they will crawl right back up the plant. For severe infestations that cannot be physically removed, apply a labeled insecticide.
- Lace bug feeding can be observed on azalea, hawthorn, rhododendron, serviceberry, oak and sycamore. You'll notice small white or yellow spots on the uppersides of leaves and small black fecal spots will appear on the undersides. They are more of a problem on stressed plants on exposed sunny sites.
- The hemlock woolly adelgid is still very active on hemlocks in many landscapes. Adelgids are aphid-like sucking pests that appear as white, waxy masses. Heavy infestations can debilitate trees, particularly when they are stressed. Ultra-fine horticultural oil is a safe and effective insecticide to use but should not be applied when temperatures exceed 80 degrees F. Thorough coverage of the foliage is essential to achieving good control. A dormant oil spray in November through early March will also help to kill over-wintering adults. Or use a systemic insecticide registered for control of hemlock woolly adelgid. Apply as a drench around the base of the tree. Follow label instructions.
- You may notice the browning of black locust leaves caused by locust leaf miner feeding. This is a perennial pest that does not debilitate the trees. Locust trees put out new growth throughout the growing season.

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