

Time for Peachtree Borer Treatment

Last week, traps used in our scouting program detected the first of the peachtree borer flight period for this year. That means that **this week** is the prime time to treat for peachtree borer.

Peachtree borer is a type of clearwing borer, a group of moths that mimic wasps. This insect can severely damage peach, plum, cherry, and other *Prunus spp.* Adults do not directly harm the plants. Rather, the larvae of these moths bore into tree trunks or shrub stems, often causing significant damage. This species primarily attacks young plants and typically dwells **no higher than 2 feet** above the ground.

Peachtree borers can be treated with **bark sprays** containing pyrethroids such as bifenthrin or permethrin. Treatment timing is crucial because the chemical residue must be present when newly hatched larvae are still mobile on the bark and have not yet bored into the plant. Apply the first spray 10 to 14 days after the onset of the adult flight period. Because this species has a long flight period, a **second application** can be made 6 weeks after the first.

For **more detailed information** about the biology and management of clearwing borers and other borer pests, see "[Insect Borers of Trees and Shrubs](#)".

Always read and follow pesticide label guidelines for safe use of any pesticide!

Primetime for Scale Monitoring

It's that time of year that many scale insect pests have just gone through or are about to go through the egg-hatching stage. After egg hatch, **mobile scale "crawlers"** migrate from their mothers to settle and begin feeding.

If treatment is necessary, this is a prime time for a spray treatment because mobile crawlers are more likely to encounter chemical residues and newly hatched scales are more **susceptible to pesticides** than older scales. If treatment is necessary, but you have already missed the mobile stage, there still may be some benefit of treating newly settled scales simply because they are still very small and vulnerable.

In general, optimizing the tree's growth conditions is a good measure for preventing scale outbreaks. Just be cautious not to over-fertilize as this can actually make infestations worse.

We know that egg hatch for **oak lecanium scale** and **calico scale** began in the past few weeks. The majority of these scale crawlers have probably already completed their migration to the leaves where these species feed until returning to tree branches for the winter.

We also know that egg hatch for **Japanese maple scale** has begun. However, this scale has two generations per year, and crawlers of this species are present throughout much of the summer.

Scales to monitor for crawler activity during this time of year are listed below. Has anyone seen crawlers for these scales?

Cottony camellia/taxus scale on holly, camellia, taxus, and others [more info](#)

Cottony maple leaf scale on maple, dogwood, and holly [more info](#)

European fruit lecanium scale on *Prunus*, redbud, elm, maple, poplar, willow, and others [more info](#)

Fletcher scale on juniper, arborvitae, baldcypress, and yew [more info](#)

Japanese maple scale on dogwood, zelkova, holly, maple, and others [more info](#)

Pine tortoise scale on pine [more info](#)

Walnut scale on birch, linden, maple, and others [more info](#)

View [photos](#) and more info for various scales

Be on the Lookout

Other things we've been seeing include the following:



Bagworm larval activity
Photo: Sarah Vanek



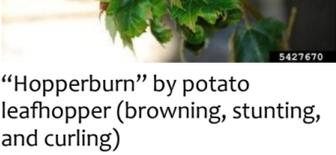
Honeylocust spider mite
We've also been seeing some maple spider mite.

Photo: Utah State Extension

To monitor for spider mites, hold a white sheet under a branch and shake or tap the branch. This will dislodge the mites and cause them to fall onto the paper. Look for any tiny moving specks. For more information, see [Spider Mites-University of Kentucky](#) or [Spider Mites-Colorado State](#).



Potato leafhopper activity
Photo: Penn State, Agricultural Sciences



"Hopperburn" by potato leafhopper (browning, stunting, and curling)
Photo: Eric R. Day

Recent findings of the UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab:

Scab on crabapple

Gloeosporium leaf spot on birch

Botryosphaeria canker on blackgum

Phloeospora leaf spot on mulberry

Anthraxnose on maple

Leaf blister on oak

Verticillium wilt on maple and redbud

Black spot and **rose mosaic virus** on rose

Spruce Diseases and Disorders Appearing in the Landscape

Check out the article in the attached Kentucky Pest News bulletin.