

Problem Plants

This is a general plant list of typical plants you will encounter in and on landscapes here in the Pacific Northwest. This is a quick reference guide to help identify problems and communicate with clients. It's very important to have a proper identification and understanding of your client's pesticide comfort level before any application is performed.

What the problem looks like	Probable Cause	Comments
<p>ARBORVITAE Thuja occidentalis Discolored or dying foliage from honeydew and sooty mold.</p> <p>Discolored or dying foliage. Tiny, oval to circular bodies on foliage.</p> <p>Browning of tips, beginning in fall, browning worst late winter to springs</p>	<p>Arborvitae aphid</p> <p>Spider Mites</p> <p>Cypress Tip Moth</p>	<p>Vigorous plants tolerate moderate populations. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL for control.</p> <p>Vigorous plants tolerate moderate populations. If populations are heavy in late summer promote proper watering and treat with MPEDE.</p> <p>Commonly used cultivars include: 'Emerald Green' and 'Pyramidalis'</p> <p>Treatment between March to May when populations are high - shake branches to see silvery tan, moths flying around</p>
<p>AUCUBA Aucuba japonica Plant blackened by sooty mold. Waxy, cottony material on leaves or twigs.</p> <p>Leaves blackened. Black cannot be scraped off as with above sooty mold.</p>	<p>Mealybug</p> <p>Excess light</p>	<p>Vigorous plants tolerate moderate populations. If significant damage occurs treat with HORT OIL.</p> <p>Abiotic disorder. Plant is adapted to grow well in shade.</p>
<p>AZALEA (Rhododendron sp.)</p> <p>Wilted or dead plants. Roots missing, debarked, girdled near soil surface. Notched or ragged leaves, including on nearby hosts: rhododendron, photina.</p> <p>Leaf partly or all thickened, distorted and crisp. White or pinkish spores cover infected tissue.</p> <p>Foliage yellow and veins green</p> <p>Foliage white/gray</p> <p>Yellow stippled leaves. Underside of</p>	<p>Woods weevil, Black vine weevil</p> <p>Leaf gall Fungus spreads by air only during wet weather.</p> <p>Iron Deficiency</p> <p>Powdery Mildew</p> <p>Lacebug</p>	<p>Apply NEMATODES to soil beneath infested plants to kill weevil larvae and pupae.</p> <p>Avoid overhead watering. Prune only when dry. Vigorous plants tolerate extensive leaf galling.</p> <p>Application with SUPERTRACE W/ IRON will help promote health.</p> <p>Compost Tea, PHOSPHITE foliar spray. Recommend disease resistant varieties</p> <p>Apply MPEDE to underside of leaves.</p>

leaves covered in brown or black LB waste. Live bugs on underside of leaves.		Request a 2 week follow up service for severe cases.
BEECH Sticky honeydew, blackish sooty mold and whitish cast skins on foliage.	Woolly beech leaf aphid Small, greenish insects in groups on the underside of leaves.	Plants tolerate abundant aphids. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.
BIRCH Sticky honeydew, blackish sooty mold and whitish cast skins on foliage	Aphids	Plants tolerate abundant aphids. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.
BOXWOOD Foliage black from sooty mold. Popcorn like bodies (egg sacs) on bark. Foliage discolors, wilts, stunts or may drop. Discolored bark or cankers may ooze sap. Branches or plant may die.	Cottony cushion scale Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots Decay fungi common in moist soils.	Normally controlled by natural enemies. If problem persist MPEDE will control insect problem. Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival.
CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL Dieback of occasional twigs.	Branch or twig borers Adults tunnel in twigs	Keep plants vigorous and provide proper cultural care. Prune out infected parts. Eliminate nearby dead hardwood where beetles breed.
CAMELLIA Foliage blackened by sooty mold. Leaves cupped, curled or twisted. Foliage blackened by sooty mold. Twig or branch decline or dieback.	Aphids Black scale	Conserve natural enemies that provide control. Hose forcefully with water. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL or MPEDE if problem is severe. This insect is more difficult to control. If problem is severe treat with oil, if necessary, use HORT OIL or MPEDE .
CEANOTHUS Blackened foliage from sooty mold. Reduced shoot growth. Stippled, flecked, or bleached leaves.	Ceanothus aphid	Vigorous plant tolerates, conserve beneficial insects. Tolerate or HORT OIL sprays. If severe problem, treat with MPEDE .

Leaves may drop.	Mites	If severe problem, treat with MPEDE .
<p>CHOISYA (Mexican Orange)</p> <p>Stickiness and blackening of foliage from honeydew and sooty mold. Plant growth may slow.</p> <p>Stippled, flecked, or bleached leaves. Leaves may drop.</p>	<p>Black scale Brownish or orangish, flattened (immature) or blackish (adult) insects.</p> <p>Mites</p>	<p>Insects on twigs or leaves. Prominent H-shaped on back of more mature stages. This insect is more difficult to control. If problem is severe treat with oil, if necessary, use MPEDE or HORT OIL.</p> <p>If severe problem, treat with MPEDE.</p>
<p>CISTUS</p> <p>Sticky honeydew, blackish sooty mold and whitish cast skins on foliage.</p>	Aphids	Plants tolerate abundant aphids. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.
<p>COTONEASTER</p> <p>Sticky honeydew, blackish sooty mold and whitish cast skins on foliage.</p>	Aphids	Plants tolerate abundant aphids. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.

<p>CYPRESS, FALSE CYPRESS</p> <p>Brown dying foliage on branches, cankers on limbs or trunk</p> <p>Dark scabby or velvety spots on leaves.</p> <p>Stippled, flecked, or yellow foliage.</p> <p>Stickiness and blackening of foliage from honeydew and sooty mold.</p> <p>Foliage discolors, wilts, stunts, may drop. Discolored bark or cankers may ooze sap. Branches or plant may die back.</p> <p>Browning of tips, beginning in fall, browning worst late winter to springs</p>	<p>Cypress canker Fungi that infects cypress bark</p> <p>Scab, or Dissmicila blight Fungal disease spread by splashing water.</p> <p>Mites</p> <p>Aphids</p> <p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots. Decay fungi common in moist soils.</p> <p>Cypress Tip Moth</p>	<p>Infects Leyland Cypress</p> <p>Treat with Compost Tea. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. Clean leaf litter. If severe problem, treat with PHOSPHITE.</p> <p>Plants tolerate abundant aphids. Tolerate or apply oil if populations are bothersome.</p> <p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival.</p> <p>Treatment with MPEDA between March to May when populations are high - shake branches to see silvery tan, moths flying around</p>
<p>DAPHNE</p> <p>Foliage discolors, wilts, stunts, may drop. Discolored bark or cankers may ooze sap. Branches or plant may die back</p>	<p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots. Decay fungi common in moist soils.</p>	<p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival.</p>
<p>DOGWOOD</p> <p>Foliage tip blackening or margins turning red.</p> <p>Foliage discolors, wilts, stunts, may drop.</p> <p>Foliage white/gray</p>	<p>Anthrachnose A fungal disease</p> <p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots</p> <p>Powdery Mildew</p>	<p>Treat with compost tea. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. Clean leaf litter.</p> <p>Soil pathology test to confirm which disease. Deep root feeding with Compost tea, ACT and MY. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p> <p>Make sure plant is receiving enough water, sanitation.</p>
<p>DOUGLAS FIR</p> <p>Cottony white tufts on needles with yellow spots.</p>	<p>Cooley spruce gall aphid Tiny, purplish insects beneath cottony tufts.</p>	<p>Early season HORT OIL application is recommended to plants with evidence of insect activity. This insect is difficult to treat due to its lifecycle.</p>

<p>Branches die back. Treetop or entire tree may die. Cankers on bark.</p>	<p>Canker/ Root rot A fungal disease</p>	<p>Primarily affects stressed trees. Provide appropriate water and cultural care. Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p>
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<p>ELM</p> <p>Stickiness and blackening of foliage from honeydew and sooty mold, whitish cast skins on underside of leaves.</p> <p>Chewed leaves, foliage may be webbed or contain silken tents.</p> <p>Foliage yellows then wilts, usually first in one part of canopy. Curled, dead brown leaves remain on trees.</p> <p>Woody swellings (galls), cottony, waxy material on branches or roots.</p> <p>Leaves are skeletonized</p>	<p>European elm scale</p> <p>Fall webworm, Fruit tree leaf roller, Omnivorous looper Larvae up to 1 inch long. May be in webbed foliage.</p> <p>Dutch elm disease</p> <p>Woolly apple aphid</p> <p>Elm Leaf Beetle</p>	<p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p> <p>If severe problem, treat with MPEDE.</p> <p>Check with management for most current treatment for this difficult disease.</p> <p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p> <p>Only treatment is Pointer injection, which we don't do anymore</p>
<p>EUONYMUS</p> <p>Whitish patches of growth on underside of leaves.</p>	<p>Powdery mildew</p>	<p>Usually not fatal, recommended thinning plant for air circulation and light. Treat with CT.</p>
<p>FIR</p> <p>Brown to purplish insects clustered on foliage. May be sooty mold or honeydew.</p> <p>Distorted, stunted twigs or needles. Needles may drop</p> <p>Needles brown drop prematurely, slow plant growth.</p> <p>Branch dieback and gradual death</p>	<p>Giant Conifer Aphids</p> <p>Balsam Twig Aphid</p> <p>Needle casts Fungal disease</p> <p>Root Rot</p>	<p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p> <p>Primarily affects stressed trees and Alpine firs. Provide appropriate water and cultural care. Alpine firs are not treatable.</p> <p>Reduce humidity near and around canopy.</p> <p>Primarily affects stressed trees. Provide appropriate water and cultural care. Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis</p>
<p>FRUIT TREES</p> <p>Apple, crab apple, apricot, cherry, plum, pear, nectarine and peach.</p> <p>Small brown leaf spots, center tan. Holes in leaf dropped, infected</p>	<p>Shot hole A fungal disease</p>	<p>All fruit trees are difficult to grow on the Westside "wet side" of Western Washington</p> <p>Treat with CT and PHOSPHITE. The beneficial bacteria and other</p>

<p>tissue. Concentric lesions on branch.</p> <p>Stickiness and blackening of foliage from honeydew and sooty mold.</p> <p>Reddened, distorted foliage in spring. Shoots thickened, distorted, may die. Leaves may drop prematurely.</p> <p>Dark scabby or velvety spots on leaves or fruit.</p> <p>Foliage yellows then wilts, usually first in one part of canopy. Curled, dead brown leaves remain on trees.</p> <p>Leaves wilted, discolored, may drop. Branches or entire plant may die.</p> <p>Tiny reddish to brown leaf spots, may have yellow halos. Larger, dark areas on leaves. Leaves may drop.</p>	<p>Aphids</p> <p>Leaf curl Fungal disease promoted by moist spring weather.</p> <p>Scab Fungi spread by splashing water in spring</p> <p>Verticillium wilt</p> <p>Armillaria or Phytophthora</p> <p>Entomosporium leaf spot</p>	<p>microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. Clean leaf litter.</p> <p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p> <p>Affects peach and nectarine. Treat with CT and PHOSPHITE. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease.</p> <p>Affects apple and pear. Treat with CT and PHOSPHITE.</p> <p>Verticillium wilt fungus (microsclerotia) resides in the soil. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis. Deep root feeding with ACT and MY.</p> <p>Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Encourage client to thin plants and clean leaf litter.</p> <p>Treat with CT and PHOSPHITE. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Encourage client to thin plants and clean leaf litter.</p>
<p>HAWTHORN</p> <p>Tiny reddish yellow leaf spots may have yellow halos. Larger dark areas on leaves. Leaves may drop.</p> <p>Stickiness and blackening of foliage from honey dew and sooty mold.</p>	<p>Entomosporium leaf spot</p> <p>Aphids</p>	<p>Treat with CT and PHOSPHITE. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Encourage client to thin plants and clean leaf litter. Replace with resistant varieties (Douglas Hawthorne)</p> <p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p>
<p>HEATHER (5-Year Lifespan)</p> <p>Leaves discolored, wilted, stunted, may drop prematurely. Discolored bark may ooze sap. Branches may</p>	<p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots. Decay fungi common in moist soils.</p>	<p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival.</p>

also die back.		
<p>HEBE (Not cold-hardy)</p> <p>Foliage fades, yellows, browns, wilts, often scattered throughout canopy. Branches die back.</p> <p>Yellowing or death of foliage, older foliage affected first.</p>	<p>Verticillium wilt</p> <p>Fusarium wilt</p>	<p>Verticillium wilt fungus (microsclerotia) resides in the soil. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p> <p>Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p>
<p>HEMLOCK</p> <p>Foliage discolored, wilted, stunted, may drop prematurely. Discolored bark may ooze sap. Branches may also die back.</p> <p>Foliage black from sooty mold. Popcorn like bodies on bark and scattered on foliage.</p>	<p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots. Decay fungi common in moist soils.</p> <p>Woolly Aphids</p>	<p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival. Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal</p> <p>Disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p> <p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome. These are not the cause of decline of plants – Aphids are there because the tree is stressed – deep root feeding with CT.</p>
<p>HOLLY (This is an Invasive Plant)</p> <p>Foliage discolored, wilted, stunted, may drop prematurely. Branches may also die back.</p>	<p>Dematophora root rot</p> <p>Minute white fungi growths may be visible on wood.</p>	<p>Tolerate, insect difficult to control due to multiple populations annually</p>
<p>JUNIPER</p> <p>Foliage yellows and wilts. Branches or entire plant dies.</p>	<p>Root and Crown Rot</p> <p>Phytophthora spp. Fungal disease.</p>	<p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival.</p>

<p>LARCH</p> <p>Foliage discolored, wilted, stunted, may drop prematurely. Discolored bark may ooze sap. Branches may also die back.</p>	<p>Root and Crown Rot Phytophthora spp. Fungal disease.</p>	<p>Treat with CT, ACT and MY. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p>
<p>MAGNOLIA</p> <p>Blackening of foliage from sooty mold. White popcorn like bodies on bark.</p> <p>Blackening of foliage from sooty mold.</p>	<p>Cottony cushion scale</p> <p>Mealybug</p>	<p>Usually under good biologic control. Do MPEDE or HORT OIL if needed.</p> <p>Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p>
<p>MAPLE</p> <p>Foliage fades, yellows, browns, wilts, often scattered throughout canopy. Branches die back.</p> <p>Sticky honeydew, blackish sooty mold on branches and foliage.</p>	<p>Verticillium wilt</p> <p>Aphids</p>	<p>Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p> <p>Apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome. (not on laceleaf maples – oil will damage leaves)</p>
<p>OAK</p> <p>Blackening of foliage from sooty mold.</p> <p>Blackening of foliage from sooty mold.</p>	<p>Aphids</p> <p>Scale</p>	<p>Apply HORT OIL if populations are bothersome.</p> <p>Scale has one generation/yr. Not fatal to tree. Monitor and apply HORT OIL or MPEDE if not tolerable.</p>
<p>PALM</p> <p>Yellowing and death of fronds, often-older fronds or leaflets on one side die first. Vascular tissue brown.</p> <p>Premature yellowing of fronds at tips.</p>	<p>Fusarium wilt</p> <p>Abiotic disease Causes include excess or deficient water, magnesium, nitrogen, or potassium deficiency; and pesticide or other chemical injury.</p>	<p>Treat with CT. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Soil pathology test needed for diagnosis.</p> <p>Deep root injection with BIO-PAK has shown signs of improvements.</p>

<p>PHOTINIA</p> <p>Tiny reddish to brown leaf spots may have yellow halos. Larger dark areas on leaves. Leaves may drop.</p> <p>Wilted or dead plants. Roots missing, debarked, girdled near soil surface. Notched or ragged leaves, including on nearby hosts; rhododendron.</p>	<p>Entomosporium leaf spot</p> <p>Weevils</p>	<p>Treat with CT. The beneficial bacteria and other microorganisms will be antagonistic to fungal disease. This disease is very difficult to control. Encourage client to thin plants and clean leaf litter.</p> <p>Apply nematodes to soil beneath infested plants to kill weevil larvae and pupae. Encourage skirting up lower branches.</p>
<p>PINE</p> <p>Stickiness, varnishing, or blackening of foliage from honeydew and sooty mold. Possible yellowing of needles.</p> <p>Yellow molting or dieback of needles.</p> <p>Foliage discolored, wilted, stunted, may drop prematurely. Discolored bark may ooze sap. Branches may also die back.</p> <p>Boring dust or coarse granular material around tree base or on bark plates or branch crutches. Pattern like holes.</p> <p>Pitchy masses 1 – 4 inches in diameter protruding from trunks and limbs, limbs occasionally break</p> <p>Stunted bushy foliage, possible dieback. Round swellings on branches, orangish in spring</p>	<p>Aphids</p> <p>Pine Needle scale White, gray or black, difficult to see with naked eye, on needles.</p> <p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots. Decay fungi common in moist soils.</p> <p>Bark beetles</p> <p>Sequoia pitch moth</p> <p>Western Gall Rust</p>	<p>Plants tolerate moderate populations. Tolerate or apply HORT OIL if damaging.</p> <p>Scales have several populations/yr. In warm areas, only one in cool sites. Plants tolerate moderate populations. If damaging, monitor and apply HORT OIL OR MPEDE.</p> <p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival. Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY.</p> <p>Plants tolerate moderate populations. If damage is significant it could kill tree No treatment recommended.</p> <p>Avoid injuring bark – the tree can tolerate small infestations</p> <p>Prune out infected branches before spring.</p>
<p>POPLAR</p> <p>Leaves wilted, discolored, may drop. Branches or entire plant may die</p> <p>Sticky honeydew, blackish sooty mold and whitish cast skins on leaves</p>	<p>Dematophora Root Rot</p> <p>Aphids</p>	<p>Avoid watering trunks of plants. Removal of plant may be necessary. If caught early on deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY.</p> <p>HORT OIL or MPEDE.</p>

<p>PYRACANTHA</p> <p>Sticky honeydew and blackish sooty mold, and whitish skin cast on branches.</p> <p>Sudden wilting, shriveling, blackening of shoots, blossoms, fruits</p>	<p>Apple Aphid</p> <p>Fireblight</p>	<p>Tolerate or if problem is severe treat with HORT OIL</p> <p>Replace with resistant varieties. Spray with PHOSPHITE and CT. Cut out infected branch and sanitize. Remove fallen leaves</p>
<p>RHODODENDRON</p> <p>New and old foliage yellow, veins green.</p> <p>Notched or ragged leaves</p> <p>Whitish patches of growth on underside of leaves.</p> <p>Leaves discolored, wilted, stunted may drop prematurely. Discolored bark may ooze sap. Branches or plant may die</p> <p>Yellow stippled leaves. Underside of leaves covered in brown or black LB waste. Live bugs on underside of leaves.</p>	<p>Iron deficiency</p> <p>Weevils</p> <p>Powdery mildew</p> <p>Collar, Foot, and Crown Rots</p> <p>Lacebug</p>	<p>Application with chelated iron source will help promote health.</p> <p>Apply nematodes to soil beneath infested plants to kill weevil larvae and pupae. Encourage skirting up lower branches.</p> <p>Treat with compost tea</p> <p>Many plants cannot withstand “wet feet”. Culture change is needed for plant survival. Deep root feeding with CT, ACT and MY.</p> <p>Apply MPEDE to underside of leaves. Request a 2 week follow up service for severe cases.</p>
<p>SERVICEBERRY</p> <p>Leaves with orange pustules, light to dark spots. Spores may infect fruit.</p>	<p>Rust</p>	<p>Avoid overhead watering. Vigorous plants tolerate moderate infection.</p>
<p>SPRUCE</p> <p>Stippled foliage. Foliage color abnormally light green or yellowish.</p> <p>Interior needles turn yellow then drop, leaving only yellow terminal needles.</p> <p>Pinecone like galls on branch tips. Galls turn brown and become obvious.</p>	<p>Spruce spider mite</p> <p>Spruce Aphid</p> <p>Cooley spruce gall Aphid</p>	<p>Highest populations occurring in spring and fall. Monitor these problem trees and treat with HORT OIL or MPEDE if necessary.</p> <p>Highest populations occurring in spring and fall. Monitor these problem trees and treat with HORT OIL or MPEDE if necessary.</p> <p>Plants usually tolerate damage. Primarily affects stressed trees. Provide appropriate water and cultural care. Cut off infected tips.</p>

<p>SYRINGA, Lilac</p> <p>Black to brown spots and streaks on leaves, which may shrivel. Elongated, possibly oozing, lesions on twigs</p>	<p>Bacterial Blight</p>	<p>Prune and dispose of infected twigs and branches. Prune during the dry season to prevent the spread. Do not water overhead.</p>
<p>VIBURNUM</p> <p>Notched leaves</p>	<p>Root Weevil</p>	<p>NEMATODES in fall and MPEDE in spring</p>
<p>WILLOW</p> <p>Yellow to orangish powdery pustules on lower surface leaves.</p>	<p>Rust Fungal disease</p>	<p>Damage usually not severe enough to warrant treatment. Encourage client to clean leaf litter to minimize disease spread.</p>