

# CHECKLIST OF COMMON INSECT RELATED EVENTS - EASTERN PLAINS COUNTIES

**Note:** This is a generalized checklist of when some of the more important insect related events *tend* to occur in Pueblo and Fremont Counties. Year to year variations are considerable and this should only be used as a guideline for introductory Master Gardeners to begin to anticipate and help recognize common insect occurrences. Your experiences will be invaluable to further modify and improve this to your local conditions.

Fact Sheets and Extension Bulletins are available that can supplement information on the referred events.

## January/February

### *Household Insects*

**Fungus gnats:** Adults commonly are observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

**Carpet beetles:** Some adults may emerge and be found in homes.

**Boxelder bugs, cluster flies:** Overwintered adults become active in and around homes.

**Winged termites:** Winged reproductive stages begin to emerge and swarm.

**Firewood insects:** Bark beetles and wood borers emerge from stored wood in homes

**Ants:** Field ants forage in homes for sweet materials.

## Early March

### *Household Insects*

**Boxelder bugs, cluster flies:** Overwintered adults become active in and around homes.

**Clover mites:** Migrations of mites from lawns into buildings may begin at this time, during warm days

**Millipedes:** Nuisance movements into homes occurs following wet weather.

**Winged termites:** Winged reproductive stages continue to swarm in late winter.

**Firewood insects:** Bark beetles and wood borers emerge from stored wood in homes.

**Ants:** Foraging by field ants for sweet materials intensifies in homes.

### *Trees/Shrubs*

**Oystershell scale:** Scrape scales with eggs off limbs of aspen, ash and other host plants.

### *Lawns*

**Clover mites:** Mites are actively feeding on lawns near buildings and shrubs during warm days.

**Nightcrawlers:** Tunneling activities during spring can create lumpy lawns.

**Vole injury:** Tunneling injuries in lawns and girdling of shrubs may be evident as snow melts.

## Late March

### *Household/Miscellaneous*

**Flickers:** Males are actively drumming on buildings and defending territories during mating season.

### *Trees/Shrubs*

**Dormant oils:** Many insects that winter on plants can be controlled with dormant applications of horticultural oils.

**Ips beetles, twig beetles:** These bark beetles may be active during warm periods. Recently transplanted pines may need protection. Pinyon Ips may attack new trees at this time; preventive insecticides should be applied before trees are attacked.

**Southwestern pine tip moth:** Adults begin to emerge from pupae at the base of trees.

## Early April

### *Household/Miscellaneous Insects*

**Boxelder bugs, elm leaf beetles, cluster flies:** Overwintered adults become increasingly active in and around homes during warm periods.

**Carpet beetles:** Early spring is often the period when adult stages are most frequently encountered in homes.

**Ants:** Foraging ants in homes are common until temperatures allow them to seek food outdoors.

### *Trees/Shrub Insects*

**Ips beetles:** Ips beetle flights may begin if there are periods of warm, sunny weather.

**Aphids on fruit trees:** Spray oils on dormant trees to kill overwintered aphid eggs.

**Cooley spruce gall:** Controls are best applied before the insects make the egg sack in late April.

**Borers:** Remove and destroy damaged tree limbs and canes infested with borer larvae before insects emerge.

**Honeysuckle aphid:** Prune out old, damaged terminals that contain eggs.

**European elm bark beetle:** Pruned elm wood and logs should be destroyed prior to beetle emergence.

**Conifer sawflies:** Larvae feed on older growth of various pines.

### *Lawns*

**Denver billbug:** Overwintered larvae may damage roots of turfgrass.

**Turfgrass mites:** Clover mites continue and bank grass mites begin to increase in droughty areas.

**Sod webworms, cutworms:** Damage to lawns by webworms and cutworms begin at this time.

**Nightcrawlers:** Tunneling activities and associated lawn lumps continue.

**Midges:** Non-biting midges emerge from ponds and mating swarms may be observed over lawns.

## Late April

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Cooley spruce gall:** Insects continue development and usually begin to produce egg sack in late April.

**Lilac/ash borer:** Flights of adult moths may begin.

**European elm bark beetle:** Preventive sprays should be completed before adults emerge and fly.

**Spider mites on pines:** *Oligonychus subnudus* populations may increase rapidly on ponderosa and other susceptible pines

**Spiny elm caterpillar:** Small colonies of these caterpillars may be seen on willow, hackberry, aspen, elm and other trees.

**Ash sawfly:** Typical period of peak egg laying

**Poplar twig gall fly:** Adults emerge and feed on sap from leaves; egg laying may begin

### *Garden*

**Spinach leafminer:** Egg laying and tunneling begins in older spinach foliage.

**Cutworms:** Army cutworm injury may peak at this time. Injury can occur in gardens, lawns, wheat and alfalfa fields

**European paper wasp:** Nest initiation usually has begun

### *Lawns*

**Spider mites:** Injury by bank grass mite increases. Clover mite populations should be decreasing.

## Early May

### *Household/Miscellaneous Insects*

**Miller moths:** Flight sometimes begin in early May.

**Millipedes:** Cool wet, weather may trigger migrations of millipedes from lawns

### *Lawns*

**Spider mites:** Injury by bank grass mite increases. Clover mite populations should be decreasing.

### *Trees/Shrub Insects*

**Hackberry psyllid:** Adults return to trees and lay eggs on the emerging leaves.

**Honeylocust podgall midge:** Adults begin laying eggs on new growth. First generation begins.

**Elm leaf beetle:** Adults return to trees and chew holes in leaves.

**Southwestern pine tip moth:** Egg-laying occurs when new needles emerge on pines.

**Honeylocust plant bug:** Nymphs have hatched and begin to damage new growth.

**Peach tree borer:** Larvae causing peak injury to bases of trees at this time

**Tent caterpillars:** Larvae may be seen making tents on various fruit and shade trees. Forest tent caterpillars are also active.

**Ash sawfly:** Early feeding injury should be present. Optimum time for treatment in most seasons.

**Slugs:** Slugs may cause peak damage to seedlings during cooler weather.

**Cooley spruce gall:** Eggs hatch and young nymphs move to feed on new growth. Galls are initiated.

**Pine needle scale:** Egg hatch may begin during warm seasons.

### *Garden Insects*

**Seedcorn maggot:** Early planted beans, corn, and melons are susceptible to seedcorn maggot damage.

**Flea beetles:** Larvae chew small holes in many garden plants and may kill seedlings.

**Strawberry injuries:** Millipedes and slugs tunnel ripening berries.

## **Late May**

### *Household/Miscellaneous*

**Miller moths:** Peak flights typically occur at this time.

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Pine needle scale:** Crawler emergence typically begins around mid May, about the time of lilac peak bloom. Check infested plants.

**Oystershell scale:** Crawler emergence typically occurs in late May. Check infested plants.

**Bronzed cane borer/rose stem girdler:** Adults emerge from caneberreries, currant, rose.

**Fruittree leafrollers:** Leafrolling may begin to be observed on many trees/shrubs.

**Hackberry psyllid:** Current season galls begin to be visible as small eruptions on leaves.

**Cooley spruce gall:** Current season galls are readily visible upon close inspection. Small nymphs are present in chambers of the gall.

**Rabbitbrush beetle:** Peak feeding injury by larvae.

**Leafcurling aphids:** Aphids curl the new growth of many plants at this time.

**Ash sawfly:** Peak feeding by larvae often occurs at this time.

**European elm scale:** Overwintered females feed intensively and begin to produce large amounts of honeydew.

**Rose/apple leafhoppers:** Peak injury to foliage of rose. Apple leafhopper may damage apple foliage.

**European elm bark beetle:** Adults emerge and feed on twigs. Most new transmission of Dutch elm disease occurs at this time.

**Codling moth:** Sprays after petal fall can help control the first generation. Monitor flights with pheromone traps.

**Root weevils:** Leaf notching of some shrubs and perennials may begin to be observed

### *Garden Insects*

**Narcissus bulb fly:** Adult stages emerge and lay eggs on narcissus, daffodils, and hyacinth.

**Crucifer flea beetles:** Adults are present on cabbage, radish and related plants.

**Apple flea beetle:** Larvae are feeding on evening primrose

**Striped cucumber beetle:** Overwintered adults become active and may damage emerging squash, pumpkins, melons

## Early June

### *Household Insects*

**Miller moths:** Moths move to mountains with warm weather. Flights will persist for a few more weeks.

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Pine needle scale:** Crawler emergence usually is continuing and declining during this period.

**Oystershell scale:** Continue to monitor emergence of crawlers. Peak crawler period often occurs in early June.

**Honeysuckle aphid:** Damage to new growth begins to become evident.

**Eriophyid mites:** Gall making occurs on many plants. Highest populations of leaf vagrants present.

**Spruce spider mite:** Populations begin to increase on spruce, juniper

**Honeylocust plant bugs:** Peak injury by nymphs. Damage will end soon.

**European elm scale:** Females swell as they begin to mature eggs. Heavy production of honeydew.

**Fruittree leafrollers:** Peak populations of larvae are generally present.

**Elm leaf beetle:** Egg laying and egg hatch often peaks at this time.

**Cottonwood leaf beetle:** Egg laying begins on cottonwood.

**Bronzed cane borer/rose stem girdler:** Peak period of egg laying in caneberrries, currant, rose.

**Honeylocust borer, bronzed birch borer:** Adults often emerge by mid-June. Beetles feed on leaves and then lay eggs on bark.

**Root weevils:** Some leaf notching by adults should be visible

**Juniper spittlebug:** Spittle masses become obvious as nymphs become fully grown.

### *Lawns*

**Spider mites:** Populations should be decreasing rapidly with warm weather.

**White grubs:** Adults of May/June beetle grubs may fly at dusk

### *Garden Insects*

**Flea beetles:** Several species attack garden plants. Seedlings may need protection.

**Grasshoppers:** Egg hatch by many of the important species (*Melanoplus* spp.) should have begun.

## Late June

### *Household/Miscellaneous Insects*

**Strawberry root weevil:** Adults begin to move into homes.

**Ants:** Swarming of winged reproductive forms may occur on warm days following rainfall.

**Miller moths:** Adults finish local migration and should have moved to mountains

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Cottony maple scale:** Females swell and produce conspicuous egg sacks.

**Spruce spider mite:** Typical period of peak populations.

**Striped pine scale:** Crawler emergence in progress.

**Poplar borer:** Adults often begin to emerge from aspen in late June.

**Peach tree borer:** Adult emergence typically begins. Monitor flights with pheromone traps.

**Cooley spruce gall adelgid:** First emergence from spruce galls and migration.

**Fall webworm:** Typical period for adults to emerge and lay eggs

**Honeylocust spider mite:** Populations begin to build towards their midsummer peak.

**Elm leaf beetle:** Injury by generation one beetles become evident.

**European elm scale:** Eggs begin to hatch and crawlers settle on leaves.

### *Garden Insects*

**Potato/tomato psyllid:** Flights of migrating psyllids arrive in state and start to colonize garden plants.

**Grasshoppers:** Egg hatch should be well underway. Survey breeding areas to identify sources of future infestations. Optimal time for treatment.

**Squash bug:** First egg laying often occurs. Treatment at this time is optimal.

**Crucifer flea beetles:** Populations usually have peaked during this period.

**Apple flea beetles:** Adults move to feed on various shrubs and fruits

**Twospotted spider mite:** Populations start to increase on a wide variety of garden plants.

## Early July

### *Household Insects*

**Strawberry root weevils:** Migrations into homes occurs with dry weather.

**Sun spiders (wind scorpions):** Peak period of indoor migrations.

**Ants:** Swarming of winged reproductive forms may occur on warm days following rainfall.

**Springtails:** Migrations of springtails to moisture (e.g., homes) may occur if hot, dry weather persists

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Peach tree borer:** Egg laying typically begins. Preventive sprays should be made at this time to kill newly hatching larvae.

**Ips beetles:** Beetles continue to emerge and attack new trees throughout the growing season. Reapplication of preventive insecticide trunk sprays may be needed.

**Elm leaf beetle:** First generation larvae become full-grown and move down trunk to pupate.

**Black vine weevil:** Adult leaf notching injuries are obvious on euonymus and rhododendron.

**Leafcurling aphids:** Most species have departed from overwintering host trees and shrubs.

**Cooley spruce gall adelgids:** Peak period of emergence from galls and migration to Douglas-fir alternate host.

**Fall webworm:** Small tents begin to form in cottonwood, *Prunus* and other trees.

**Leafcutter bees:** Characteristic cut leaf injury begins to appear on rose, lilac and other susceptible hosts.

### *Garden Insects*

**Mexican bean beetle:** Larvae begin to damage beans.

**Grasshoppers:** Nymphs should be developing rapidly and increasingly moving into yards and gardens.

**Squash bug:** Young nymphs should be present. An optimum time to treat.

**False chinch bugs:** Movements into gardens occurs as weed hosts start to dry down.

**Leafhoppers on grape, Virginia creeper:** Leafhopper injuries start to become evident on leaves.

### *Lawns*

**Sod webworms:** Watch for damage to turf grasses by the second generation larvae.

## Late July

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Codling moth:** Second, and most damaging generation begins to lay eggs. Monitor flights with pheromone traps.

**Elm leaf beetle:** Second generation egg laying and hatch often occurs in late July.

**Cooley spruce gall:** Abandoned galls become dry and very conspicuous.

**Fall webworm:** Tents grow large and begin to become conspicuous.

### *Lawns*

**White grubs:** Peak period of egg laying activity by the "annual white grubs" (chafers).

**Ants:** Swarming of winged reproductive forms may occur on warm days following rainfall.

### *Garden Insects*

**Tomato hornworms:** Peak damage by larvae occurs over the next month.

**Hummingbird moths:** Adults of the whitelined sphinx moth may be seen visiting flowers

**Potato/tomato psyllid:** Symptoms may begin to appear on potatoes and tomatoes.

**Mexican bean beetle:** Larvae begin to damage beans.

**Squash bugs:** Injury to hard/winter squash increases.

## Early August

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Honeylocust spider mite:** Populations increase rapidly and cause leaf bronzing.

**Peach tree borer:** Second treatment may be of benefit if heavy flights persist. Monitor with pheromone traps.

**Fall webworm:** Peak feeding often occurs at this time.

### *Lawns*

**White grubs:** Egg hatch and initiation of injury by annual white grubs. Optimal treatment timing for these species.

### *Garden Insects*

**Aster yellows:** Peak period of transmission by infective leafhoppers.

**Whiteflies:** High populations may be present if infested transplants were used in the garden.

**Cane borers in raspberries:** Wilting symptoms are not most evident at this time of year due to cane boring insects.

**Grasshoppers:** As grasshoppers mature and vegetation dries out migration into yards intensifies greatly.

**Squash bugs:** Peak injury occurs at this time.

### *Miscellaneous*

**Yellowjackets:** Nest size and nuisance problems greatly increase over the next month.

## Late August

### *Household Insects*

**Cluster flies:** Flies begin to move to buildings seeking overwintering shelter. Seal buildings to avoid later problems.

**Yellowjackets:** Nest size and nuisance problems accelerate.

### *Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Elm leaf beetle:** Feeding injury by the second generation becomes visible.

**Honeylocust spider mite:** Populations normally decline.

**European elm scale:** Yellowed foliage (scale flagging) symptoms begin to occur on heavily infested branches.

### *Lawns*

**White grubs:** Damage by annual white grubs accelerates.

### *Garden Insects*

**Corn rootworms:** Adults concentrate on late planted sweet corn and clip silks.

**Potato/tomato psyllid:** High populations often occur on tomato in late summer.

**Twospotted spider mite:** Expect highest populations and greatest injury at this time.

**Squash bug:** Second generation populations cause serious damage to winter squash and pumpkin

## Early September

### *Household/Miscellaneous*

**Cluster flies:** Flies begin to move to buildings seeking overwintering shelter. Seal buildings to avoid later problems.

**Yellowjackets, hornets:** Nest size and nuisance problems peak. Large paper nests in trees and shrubs attracting attention.

**Large spiders:** Cat-face and garden spiders become fully grown and attract attention. Male tarantulas migrate.

*Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Large caterpillars:** Several species of large caterpillars (cecropia moth, polyphemus moth, sphinx moth larvae) wander about landscapes when fully grown and attract attention.

**Peach tree borer:** Rescue treatments should be applied before soil temperatures become too cool.

*Garden Insects*

**Slugs:** Garden injuries increase with the return of cool, wet weather.

**Aster yellows:** Symptoms are obvious on many garden flowers and vegetables.

**Bumble flower beetles:** Beetles feed on flowers and visit bacterial ooze.

*Lawns*

**White grubs:** Damage by annual white grubs becomes obvious.

*Other*

**Tarantulas:** Mature male tarantulas wander in search of mates.

## Late September

*Household/Miscellaneous Insects*

**Millipedes:** Movements into homes occurs following wet periods

**Spiders, crickets:** Movements into homes accelerate greatly with cool weather. Male tarantulas migrate.

*Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Aphids on trees:** High populations of aphids may develop on several species (willow, oak, aspen) prior to frost.

**Cooley spruce gall:** Winged stages return to spruce and leave overwintering stage on tree.

**Yellowjackets, bees:** Wasps and bees may be seen visiting trees and shrubs where honeydew producing insects (e.g., aphids, soft scales) are present.

## October

*Household/Miscellaneous*

**Fruit/Vinegar flies:** Flies develop in overripe fruit and become abundant in homes.

**Wasps and hornets:** Nests are abandoned at the end of the season.

**Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, elm leaf beetles, root weevils:** Invasions of homes accelerates with cool weather. Massing boxelder bugs occur on building sides during warm, sunny days.

**Hackberry blistergall psyllids:** Adults move into homes and to shelter of other overwintering sites.

**Spiders, crickets:** Movements into homes accelerate greatly with cool weather.

*Tree/Shrub Insects*

**Aphids on trees:** Overwintering eggs are laid as long as weather permits.

**Needle drop of pines:** Pines naturally begin shed of third year needles in fall.

*Lawns*

**Cranberry girdler:** Damage to lawns by this sod webworm occurs in the fall.

**Clover mites:** Egg hatch follows cold weather and mites begin to develop on grasses and weeds around foundations.

## November/December

*Household Insects*

**Indian meal moth:** Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

**Fungus gnats:** Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

**Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs:** Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

**Fruit flies:** Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.