

Aspen



Plant Problem	November 21-30	November 11-20	November 1-10	October 21-31	October 11-20	October 1-10	September 21-30	September 11-20	September 1-10	August 21-31	August 11-20	August 1-10	July 21-31	July 11-20	July 1-10	June 21-30	June 11-20	June 1-10	May 21-31	May 11-20	May 1-10	April 21-30	April 11-20	April 1-10	March 21-31	March 11-20	March 1-10
Gall, Poplar Vagabond Aphid																											
Scale, Oystershell																											
Scale, Scurfy																											
Cottonwood Dagger Moth																											
Gall, Poplar Petiole																											
Leafminer, Aspen or Poplar																											
Marssonina Leaf Spot																											
Rust																											
Unicorn Caterpillar																											
Aphid, Clearwinged Aspen																											
Borer, Poplar																											
Cankers																											
Carpenterworm																											

KEY: ■ fruit ■ flower ■ branches ■ leaves ■ trunk ■ crown ■ roots

Plant Problem

Signs/Symptoms

Treatment

Gall, Poplar Vagabond Aphid



Large, irregular, green swellings on new twig growth which turn brown by the end of the season. The galls are hollow within and contain numerous dark green aphids.

The galls are unsightly, but they are not detrimental. Eggs overwinter within galls and in bark crevices. Remove galls during the winter to reduce aphid populations next season. Treat trees with a horticultural oil spray before bud-break to kill newly hatched aphids.

Scale, Oystershell



Small, brownish, oystershell shaped scales are crowded on branches and may cover the bark completely. Infested branches suffering dieback. Newly hatched nymphs are white.

Prune out heavily infested branches, as appropriate. Dormant oils are not effective, as scales are in the egg stage beneath female shells. Monitor in June to detect newly hatched nymphs and apply oil spray, insecticidal soap or insecticide.

Scale, Scurfy



Small, flat, pear shaped, dirty-white scales crowded on branches; heavy infestations look crusty. Plants are weakened, and dieback of twigs or branches may be evident.

Prune out heavily infested branches, as appropriate. Dormant-season oil sprays not as effective as treating newly hatched nymphs ("crawlers") in June. Monitor to detect crawlers and apply an oil spray, insecticidal soap or insecticide.

Cottonwood Dagger Moth



Yellow or white, fuzzy caterpillar with several tufts of long black hairs in a row along the top of the body; black head. Ragged holes chewed in leaves.

Usually not numerous nor damaging enough to justify control. Young caterpillars are susceptible to microbial insecticides, which may need to be applied several times.

Gall, Poplar Petiole



Cherry-sized, spherical swelling on leaf petiole, sometimes on leaf blade or stem. Greenish aphids covered with waxy secretions are inside. Galls frequently damaged by squirrels.

The galls are not at all harmful to host plants. No need to control, as natural enemies often reduce aphid populations.

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Plant Problem

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Treatment

Leafminer, Aspen or Poplar



Silvery, serpentine tunnels wind throughout the middle layer of leaves, often involving most of the leaf blade. Center line of dark excrement within mines. Larvae are pale, whitish-green.

Leafminers pose little threat to health of trees. In most years, natural enemies keep populations in check. If control is warranted, use a contact spray when adults are present. Apply an appropriate systemic insecticide to control larvae early or prior to infestation.

Marssonina Leaf Spot



Dark brown to reddish brown lesions; yellow halos. Lesions coalesce into brownish black, vein-limited blotches.

Improve air circulation. Plant resistant varieties. Trees that are affected perennially should be sprayed with a foliar fungicide at bud break and repeated according to label instructions.

Rust



Small, yellow-orange pustules scattered on the lower leaf surface. Premature defoliation with severe infection.

Sanitation. Improve air circulation. Trees that are affected perennially should be sprayed with a foliar fungicide at bud break with repeated applications according to label instructions.

Unicorn Caterpillar



Colorful caterpillars, not hairy, but with enlarged bumps on top of body behind a large head. Young caterpillars feed in groups. Leaves have ragged holes.

Infestations often spotty and not harmful to overall tree health. Groups of young caterpillars are easily controlled with a microbial insecticide, a horticultural oil or an insecticidal soap. Do not treat when caterpillars are nearly mature, well over an inch long.

Aphid, Clearwinged Aspen



Summer hosts are aspen and poplar. Dark green aphids which produce abundant and annoying honeydew. Colonies mass on leaves, branches and trunk.

Aspen colonized in early summer, and populations peak in late summer. Not considered to be harmful but annoying. To conserve beneficial insects, treat large infestations with a horticultural oil spray or insecticides. Insecticidal soaps are not labelled for aspen.

Plant Problem

Signs/Symptoms

Treatment

Borer, Poplar



Large exit holes on bark, especially at branch junctions with trunk. Branch dieback evident. Fibrous sawdust accumulates at base of tree. The adult is a tan, speckled longhorned beetle.

Prune out and destroy dying, dead, or fallen branches. Monitor for appearance of new exit holes, which indicate beetle emergence. Thereafter, until August, make regular applications of an insecticide to the trunk and major branches to discourage re-infestation.

Cankers



Yellow or orange-brown to black discolored areas on trunk and branches. Liquid ooze from canker area. Cankers, sunken dead areas of bark; reddish brown discoloration of the wood.

Prune out affected areas.

Carpenterworm



Large, weepy, circular, exit holes usually at base of tree and in main branches. When adults emerge, pupal skins often protrude from holes. Some branches may be dead or stressed.

Since each carpenterworm maintains an open hole to the outside of the tree, inject an insecticide, or a slurry containing parasitic nematodes, or kill with a stiff wire. Apply a borer spray to the bark throughout the period of adult activity to prevent reinfestation.