



Colorado State Forest Service

Insect and Disease Quarterly Report

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Thousand Cankers Disease Now In Fort Collins

Thousand cankers disease was recently confirmed in two locations in Fort Collins, Colo. Thousand cankers disease is a relatively new insect and disease issue in Colorado. Over the last several years, numerous black walnuts, a popular shade and landscape tree, have been impacted by thousand cankers disease along Colorado's Front Range and in other communities throughout Colorado and the western U.S.

Thousand cankers disease is caused by a fungus carried by the walnut twig beetle. Once the fungus is introduced into the tree, it colonizes tissue surrounding beetle galleries and causes small

dead areas in the bark called cankers. Trees are eventually killed by overwhelming attacks of the walnut twig beetle and subsequent cankers that girdle branches.

The CSFS has been working in conjunction with the City of Fort Collins, CSU and other partners to address thousand cankers disease in Colorado and will continue to help residents of Colorado respond to forest health issues.

For more information on thousand cankers disease visit: www.thousandcankersdisease.com or contact CSFS.



Early signs of thousand cankers disease in black walnut.

Dealing With Storm-Damaged Trees

The recent winter storms along the Front Range and several periods of extreme winds have caused significant damage to trees, property and infrastructure in many communities. The CSFS offers a quickguide "Providing Care to Storm Damaged Trees", which can be found in full at <http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/111317-csfs-storm-dmgsd-trees-6panel-www.pdf>.



A Downed tree impacts both garage and vehicle.

After a major storm, a community can be instantly changed. Buildings may be damaged or



Downed limbs on vehicle are also across the overhead powerlines.

destroyed, power lines downed, and trees broken and torn. In the wake of this loss, neighborhoods and entire cities may experience a sense of devastation they have never known before. It is important that people approach the cleanup process safely and work with local officials to determine who has responsibility for street-side trees, if any organized limb pickup service will be provided and where and how to properly disposed of woody debris.

When dealing with damaged trees, it is important to remain aware of potential safety hazards. These hazards may include: damaged tree limbs that have not

fallen but are entangled and may break loose; downed tree material that may be impacting power lines; and changes in the structural integrity of the impacted landscape (i.e. fences, homes, vehicles, other trees).

While an initial survey of the damage to your trees may appear bleak a closer inspection of some damaged trees may indicate that through proper pruning and care the trees will recover from the damage and can remain a viable part of the landscape.

There are steps landowners can take to help their trees bear the impacts of storms. These include: proper tree selection for site conditions; providing adequate water and nutrients; and structural maintenance through proper pruning techniques.

For more information on responding to tree damage and proper tree care, visit our website at <http://www.csfs.colostate.edu> or contact your local CSFS district office.



Eek! Creepy-Crawlies and Firewood



Many Colorado residents use firewood as a primary or supplemental source of heat in the winter months, or just enjoy the atmosphere of a crackling fire. This often results in armloads of firewood coming indoors, which may have you crying “EEK! What is that?” as something six-legged appears inside the house.

Many insects are associated with the wood we collect as fuel. While there are insect species of concern that can hitch a ride in firewood to new locations, like the exotic emerald ash borer or the native mountain pine beetle, most insects found inside the house associated with firewood are secondary insects that facilitate the decay process and help recycle woody debris in nature. Some insects and arachnids have just found a warm place to overwinter beneath the bark or in the wood stack.

Assassin and Leaf-footed Bug

Assorted assassin and leaf-footed bugs are notorious for

making appearances in homes as outdoor temperatures drop. These bizarre looking insects can be



Left: assassin bug Right: western conifer seed bug.

almost an inch in length and some produce an unpleasant odor when disturbed. They don’t present any threat to humans, pets or household structure or furniture.

Wood-Boring Beetles

Longhorned beetles and other wood borer beetles, like the round headed and metallic wood borer, are often found in association with firewood. These beetles



Left: wood borer beetle Right: longhorned beetle.

come in many colors and sizes and may pinch when handled. They are secondary beetles that do not infest live trees and will not damage household furnishings.

Bark Beetles



Left: mountain pine beetle larvae Right: adult mountain pine beetle.

Bark beetles, like mountain pine beetle and their larvae, can be found under the bark of firewood. Trees that have been dead for more than a year will not harbor bark beetle larvae. The small white or cream-colored larva will not impact household wood, but all infested wood should be burned or debarked to prevent mature beetles from emerging in the summer and impacting live trees.

These insects represent only a few of the insects I’ve encountered in my wood pile. If you’ve found something interesting in your wood pile send me a picture.

Winter Tree Care

Many shade providing, flamboyant landscaping trees are lackluster during the winter months. Deciduous trees drop their leaves and hardy evergreens become portraits of a winter wonderland when fresh snow falls. People spend more time inside and less outside tending their yards and gardens and appreciating their trees. But winter is an important time to tend your trees to ensure

another good year.

Last winter was unusually dry and windy in parts of Colorado and many cases of tree mortality were associated with winter desiccation - a result of insufficient winter moisture. Watering during dry periods in the winter is just as important as watering during summer droughts. Be sure to offer your trees, especially evergreens, water if it has been dry. But only

when it is above freezing!

Trees deal with additional stressors in the winter as well. Your trees may benefit from additional protection from moisture loss, animal browse or breakage. For more information on winter tree care, visit the International Society of Arboriculture’s website at <http://www.isa-arbor.com>.



Things to watch for:

2011 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests

2012 February Newsletter

- Summary of Condition of World Forests (FAO Report)
- Summary of Condition of National Forests (from various state and federal reports)
- Summary of Condition of Colorado Forests (FHR 2011)

Upcoming events and announcements:

November 2011

10 - Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association, Colorado Springs, Colo.

17-18 - Pesticide Applicators Workshop, Denver, Colo.

December 2011

8 - Front Range Urban Forestry Council, Denver, Colo.

January 2012

TBD - Front Range Urban Forestry Council, TBD, Colo.

February 2012

TBD - Greeley Winter Tree Care Workshop, Greeley, Colo.

7-10 - ProGreen, Denver, Colo.

11 - Eastern Colo. Community Forestry Conference, Rocky Ford, Colo.

Happy Holidays!



Miss an event? Look for updates on activities or contact a participant for an overview.

Submissions for I&D Quarterly Report:

Do you have a FAQ?

Is there something you want to know more about? Submit your event or announcement, ask a question or suggest an insect, disease or product to feature: sky.stephens@colostate.edu.

Deadline for submissions is Jan. 15, 2012.

