







Shot Hole Fungus

Recently a set of leaves were brought in to diagnose an issue. Once hearing it was part of the Prunus family, we immediately assumed it would

be Japanese Beetle damage. We were incorrect.

The leaves didn't have the lacy brown appearance, traditionally found associated with the Japanese Beetle. With further investigation we realized the tree had Shot Hole.

Shot Hole is a fungus common to this family of trees and not usually a big deal for ornamental trees. Trees planted for production of fruit may be hindered if left untreated.

Most signs of shot hole disease occur in spring, causing spots on new buds and young leaves and shoots. Eventually, these spots become larger, turning brown and falling out—giving the appearance of gunshot holes in the foliage.

The fungus is most prevalent following wet winters or springs. This fungus, like many others, moves through splashing water.

Control:

Dormant Oil

Copper Fungicide

Read and follow the labels for all chemical applications for the health of your tree and you.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Information On Shot Hole Disease Treatment https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/disease/shot-hole-disease-fungus.htm

White Pine Weevil

White Pine Weevil damage is relatively easy to spot. The discoloration starts at the top and works it way down. The central leader may even begin to curl. Upon closer inspection, you will see a round hole

If you have looked at the image, you might currently be thinking... doesn't this lady know anything? The photo below is damage done to a Spruce, not White Pine! The White Pine Weevil can attack many evergreens, including Fir, Spruce, and Pine.

Culture:

In the spring, adults walk or fly to host trees, where they climb to the top to mate. Eggs are deposited in a cavity on the tree. The eggs hatch, and the larvae commence feeding in the bark, thus killing the leader. As they feed, the current season's growth is emerging, but this soon collapses, causing the characteristic "shepherd's crook." The adult beetles emerge in late summer. The adults overwinter in organic matter on the ground.

Management:

The best option is to prune out the infected section of the tree immediately. You will then be removing the larva. Cut a few inches below the damaged area.

Once you have cut your leader out, you should begin the process of training a new leader to help your tree retain an attractive and healthy aesthetic.

Chemical control is very challenging due to timing of sap movement in the

tree. Plus, we often do not notice the issue until the damage is already done.

Source:

https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hosts-pests-landscape-plants/spruce-picea-white-pine-weevil



Pine Weevil Damage to an immature Spruce.



Image: forestryimages.org



Good, Yet Bad, and Certainly Ugly

Braconid Wasp

Hopefully you weren't in the middle of breakfast as you are scrolling through this weeks emailer. If you were, I apologize if you have lost your appetite.

At first look to the image to the right, you may think the white sacs on the Tomato Hornworm are eggs. These white cylinders are actually the next stage of the Braconid Wasps life. The eggs have already hatched out of the caterpillar. The larva have chewed their way out and have begun the next change of life by spinning a cocoon to reside in until they are ready to hatch and fly away.

There are hundreds of types of Braconid Wasp and they are all considered parasitic as they will kill their host. Each type of Braconid Wasp has its own unique life cycle. Pictured here is the Tomato Hornworm with the cocoons from the Braconid Wasp. The Braconid Wasp is Mother Nature's way of combating these hungry caterpillars.

Each specific caterpillar under the Maduca genus is the larva stage for a different type of moth; Hummingbird, Sphinx, or Hawk. Tomato Hornworms as adults, are Hawk Moths. Unfortunately, for all caterpillars, including butterflies, these parasatic wasps are all inclusive. Parasatic Wasps amongst many other issues, are a major predator for the Monarch caterpillars.

As most nature lovers, we are in awe of the natural cycle of life the

Braconid Wasp and the Tomato Hornworm share. One certainly gets the better end of the stick.

Much like the love hate relationship with the Tomato Hornworm/Hawk Moth, the Braconid Wasp falls into the Good, Yet Bad, and Certainly Ugly list in our book.



Photo credit: Itchdogimages from Flickr.



Weekly Sale Explained

We have had a few questions to clarify our weekly specials. Usually the question is about the gift item/yard art item section.

For example, last weeks sale was "anything blue." To help sort this out, the sale included any gift item or yard art item that had blue on it. It could have been a blue petal, blue wing, or a gazing globe with blue in it.

This weeks sale is "anything glass." This will include but not limited to all gazing globes, glass bird baths, decorative bottles, and solar stakes with a glass ball etc.

Larry Gilds Photography items will always be excluded from our sales. Larry is a talented nursery staff member who has a huge passion for photography. We are thankful Larry asks us to display his photographs. We do not own them, and cannot make a deal on them.



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