

Sherdec Tree Service

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Honeylocust Pests

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Plant Bugs

In late spring, Honeylocust plant bugs are common pests on honeylocust. The insect is generally green in color and, when immature, resembles an aphid. Injured foliage is discolored by yellow or brown spotting, leaves become twisted and twig die back can occur during heavy infestations. New foliage is particularly favored by the plant bug and during heavy infestations, plant bugs will consume the foliage before it has a chance to expand. The infested tree appears to be very late in leafing out compared to uninfested trees. Plant bugs produce a single generation per year, with populations peaking in late May and early June.



Adult Plant Bug

Chemical controls are recommended when spring growth is seriously threatened. Acephate (Orthene), carbaryl (Sevin) and diazinon are effective in the control of plant bugs.

Leafhoppers

A common species of green leafhopper infests honeylocust and many other trees. Peak populations of the leafhopper occur in late spring, often together with plant bugs. Visible damage caused by the leafhopper is minimal and rarely results in more than a scattered yellow spotting of the foliage. Honeydew (a sticky *Adult Leafhopper* excretion of sap feeding



insects) can also be a temporary annoyance during heavy infestations.

Leafhoppers on honeylocust produce one generation per year; however, some adult leafhoppers are found in late July. If necessary, leafhoppers are easily controlled with all commonly used shade tree insecticides (Orthene, Sevin, Diazinon, insecticidal soaps, etc.).

Honeylocust Spider Mite

The honeylocust spider mite is closely related and similar in habit to the two-spotted spider mite. Both are barely visible to the unaided eye and feed on the undersides of leaves. During mid-summer, the honeylocust spider mite population increases and the foliage of infested trees turns a bronze color. (Injured leaves may drop prematurely.)



Spider Mite

Regular watering during hot summer months limits mite populations and lessens tree damage. By late August predatory mites and thrips that

feed on the honeylocust spider mite also contribute to reducing the pest population, but chemical controls may be needed to prevent serious injury. Kelthane and acephate (Orthene) are among the most widely available miticides. Repeated applications of insecticidal soaps or spray oils can also be used effectively if proper precautions are taken to check first for potential plant injury.

After assessing your site and plant health, your Sherdec Arborist can make specific recommendations regarding care and treatment for your important landscape plants.