

LANDSCAPE LOG

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JUNE JOB FOCUS

1. Insect Control
2. Disease Control
3. Trimming

June makes a transition in the landscape from the panic of spring construction and maintenance to a growing season with predictable problems and more preventative maintenance. Insect concerns of June include scales, June beetles, and borers. The abundant supply of spring moisture is rapidly changing to a landscape that needs irrigation, our rhododendrons should be protected against *Phytophthora*, and early shrub pruning, or shearing, can commence.

INSECTS

June is a month where many scale insects can be controlled in the crawler stage. This crawler stage is the most vulnerable and easy-to-control period during the life cycle of scale. One should first be on the outlook for heavy infestations. If they are apparent, then control means should be considered. Several symptoms of heavy scale infestation, include honeydew dropping on the ground under the tree with the resulting sooty mold build up and stunted new growth. The scale insects that often warrant control (if of significant populations), during early to mid June, include San Jose Scale, *Euonymus* Scale, European Elm Scale, and Putnam Scale. During mid to late June the crawlers are active for Lecanium Scale, Cottony Maple Scale, Golden Oak Scale, and Pine Tortoise Scale. These sucking insects can easily be controlled with old insecticides, e.g. Malathion or Diazinon, or many of the newer insecticides appearing on the market today, e.g. Ficam or Orthene. Your state Cooperative Extension Service should be the source for currently approved and recommended pesticides.

With drier weather and higher temperatures, mites, e.g. Honey Locust Mite, Two-spotted Mite, and Spruce Mite, can become a serious problem quickly. These sucking insect-like animals suck juices from the foliage on spruce, junipers, other evergreens, and a wide range of deciduous trees. The plants quickly take on a reddish-brown color. The best pesticides to use on mites include either ovicides, that is a miticide that controls both eggs and adults, or relatively longlived miticides, such as Plictran.

Borers can most effectively be controlled during the month of June. Although many borers attack only weakened or recently transplanted trees, one should be on the alert for these insects. Four devastating borers which should be looked for and controlled, if necessary, include Flat-headed Apple Tree Borer, Bronze Birch Borer, Dogwood Borer, and Maple Peti-

ole Borer. Although there are several materials that can be used, one particularly effective and generally recommended pesticide is Dursban. Two unique, yet devastating, insects that can best be controlled in early June, causing damage in significant ways, include June Beetle adults and Black Vine Weevil. June Beetle is capable of defoliating deciduous trees. One should be on the alert to the build up of this significant problem and spray as population and damage warrant. Black Vine Weevil is particularly devastating on yews, a backbone shrub of many midwest and northeast landscapes. With the new pesticides, Orthene and Ficam, control of this insect during early June is quite possible. Control is particularly important as the adults feed on the foliage while the immature larvae destroy the root system. Symptoms are plants with poor vigor and little or no growth (also symptoms of high water tables).

DISEASES

Phytophthora cinnamomi on rhododendron starts appearing as a significant problem in June with the higher temperatures. It is particularly devastating on the Caroliniana Rhododendron types and many of the deciduous azaleas. This problem has been noted with plants grown south of New Jersey for many years, but with increased use of rhododendrons and current production practices, this disease is appearing on particularly susceptible cultivars in nurseries as far north as Boston or northern Ohio. Control is particularly easy with the new CIBA Geigy compound, Ridomil (Subdue). This fungicide, applied as a soil drench, should control this particularly troublesome problem.

Hawthorn has had problems with fireblight and rust. By the use of Lavalley Hawthorn (*x Crataegus lavalleyi*) or Washington Hawthorn (*C. phaenopryum*), one can reduce the need for spraying. These types of hawthorns are well suited to the urban landscape, street or park tree, commercial landscape, and the home grounds.

TRIMMING

Evergreen trimming, or pruning, should commence in early spring during June and extend during July. Not only is this a time that junipers and yews are most easily pruned, but it is a period when the landscape log, or maintenance schedule, is lightening up. Further, shaping, dwarfing, or increasing the density of pines could be most readily accomplished during June as the candle growth is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ extended. You can remove 40-60% of this new candle growth by shearing, with the end result—compact, dense new growth.

As June dries out, irrigation is of greater concern. The increased irrigation and regular mowing certainly takes center stage, with other time spent in observing the landscape and controlling the problems as they appear.

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