



Honeylocust plant bug

Diaphnocoris chlorionis

Order Hemiptera, Family Miridae; plant or leaf bugs
Native pest

Host plants: Honeylocust

Description: Adult bugs are pale green bugs 5–6 mm long. Nymphs are the same color as adults, but smaller, and have only short wing buds.

Life history: Eggs hatch as honeylocust leaf buds begin to open. Nymphs feed on the leaves as they unfold. Adults appear early to mid-season. There is one generation a year.

Overwintering: Eggs under the bark of 2- to 3-year-old twigs.

Damage symptoms: The most serious damage is caused by nymphs feeding on newly developing leaves, but adults also feed on leaves. Damage can range from yellow or brown blotches to distorted and stunted leaves, holed leaves and even defoliation, in cases of heavy infestation. Tree in poor health become susceptible to secondary attack by flatheaded borer.

Monitoring: Eggs hatch at honeylocusts budbreak, when the Wayfaringtree viburnum, common liliac, or Sargent crabapple bloom in early May (Herms). Look for nymphs after bud break, adults in June and July. Look for distorted or stunted leaves sometime later. Treat when densities of bugs exceeds 1 per compound leaf.

Cultural control: Trees grown in exposed, sunny locations are more prone to bug attack. Yellow-leaved varieties such as 'Sunburst' are attractive to honeylocust plant bugs. Green-leaved varieties such as 'Shademaster' and 'Skyline' are more resistant.

Chemical control: For high populations of nymphs present at budbreak, spray with horticultural oil (1%), or use a residual insecticide. High populations of adults in June and July can be treated with oil (2%) or a residual insecticide.

Biological control:

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: azadirachtin, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, pyrethrins

Conventional pesticides: acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluvalinate, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin



Defoliation caused by honeylocust plant bug. (W26)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Withering damage caused by sucking of honeylocust plant bug. (W25)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Defoliation damage (left) and normal compound leaf. (145)
Photo: John Davidson



Honeylocust plant bug (continued)



Honeylocust plant bug adults. (146)
Photo: David Laughlin



Honeylocust plant bug immature (top) and adult (bottom); note wing buds on the immature and long developed wings on the adult. (147)
Photo: John Davidson