

Cedar Apple Rust

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It was predictable that with a couple of good rains the cedar apple rust galls blossomed profusely on the cedar trees. Which means that if you have an apple tree that is susceptible to cedar apple rust, you'd better get spraying with a fungicide because you are already behind the 8-ball! Preferred fungicides would include Immunox, chlorothalonil, funginex and propiconazole, all labeled for cedar apple rust on apple trees. Make sure that your particular product does include apples on the label. Cedar apple rust is part of a larger complex that includes cedar hawthorne and cedar quince rust. The common denominator here is cedar! And apples are susceptible to all three, but the fungicides I've already mentioned will control all three on apple trees. I often am asked by homeowners what they need to do on their cedar trees. The answer is simple, nothing. While temporarily unsightly, the damage it does to the cedars is minimal - a few branch tips will die each spring. The diseases go back and forth between the cedar and the apples (and other susceptible trees and shrubs). In late summer and early fall, the disease on the apples releases spores that go back to the cedar trees where it will live for a year and a half. The spore release period is several months long and because of the dense nature of a cedar tree's foliage, fungicide applications aren't practical. Since the damage to cedar trees is minimal, we just don't recommend treating the cedar at all. But your susceptible apple and crabapples DO need to be sprayed and in the future plant resistant varieties! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Orchardgrass

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Orchardgrass is a cool season grass, like fescue and bluegrass, that greens up early, grows rapidly at this time of year, exhibits slower growth through the heat of summer and then more aggressive growth in the fall. It is commonly used as a pasture grass in states east of Kansas, frequently mixed with a legume to produce high quality hay. UNFORTUNATELY, orchardgrass is an all too frequent contaminant in tall fescue lawn seed, especially the less expensive K-31 tall fescue. So it winds up in our yards and is a real problem. It is a bunch grass and can form a fairly large bunch in your yard. Even under fertilization it is much lighter green in color than fescue and bluegrass. It also grows about twice as fast as your tall fescue. The seed stalks, that it is sending up right now, tend to grow at angles so it has a very sprawling look. You don't want this in your yard. Because the growth and physiology of orchardgrass is so similar to fescue and bluegrass, there is no herbicide that will selectively remove it from a fescue or bluegrass lawn. About the only options you have are spot treating the individual plants with glyphosate or digging up the clumps and replanting grass seed into the somewhat large open space left behind. Since it is a bunch grass, it doesn't creep and crawl like other grasses do making it somewhat easier to control in that respect. If you aren't sure if you have orchardgrass, take a picture and email it or bring it in to me OR dig up a clump and bring it to my office, 119 East 9th Street. You may not get it all in one year, but bit by bit you can control it! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.

Ash-Lilac Borer

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. With all the talk in recent years about Emerald Ash borer people are overlooking a long time common pest, the ash lilac borer. A couple of things to keep in mind - Emerald Ash Borer or EAB is not yet here, ash-lilac borer has been here for as long as we have. EAB is a beetle, ash-lilac borer is a moth. Ash-lilac borer tends to feed in the lower portions of the tree, often just a few feet off the ground, EAB feeds throughout the tree. At this time of year you'll often find where ash-lilac borer moths have emerged from the tree, often leaving a papery pupal case partially emerged from a round hole. EAB will emerge from a much smaller hole and that hole has a very distinctive capital letter D shape. Treatments for the two pests are radically different. The treatment for EAB will NOT control ash lilac borer. Ash-lilac borer often attacks smaller younger trees especially trees that have been stressed by mechanical damage such as lawn mower or string trimmer injuries at the base of the tree. Establish a turf free zone and keep mulch around the base of the tree, but not touching the base of the tree. As the ash lilac borer moths are now active it's time to start treating smaller ash trees and lilac bushes. Spray the lower trunk, or lower lilac stems with permethrin or bifenthrin. Mix according to label directions and spray the trunks to the point of runoff. You want to establish a barrier that when the small larvae start to eat through to get under the bark, where they feed, they ingest the insecticide and die before they can do very much damage. Retreat about every 3 weeks. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.