

**Larimer County  
Department of Natural Resources**

**Forestry Services**



**COMMON PESTS TIMETABLE**

*For more information, please call the Larimer County forester at 970-498-5765.*

**March:**

- **Clover mites** – Feeding in lawns.
- **Fire blight** – Prune infected wood during dry periods when plants are dormant.
- **Oystershell scale** – Scrape scale off the limbs of infested aspens, ash and other host plants.
- **Storm damage** – Prune trees damaged by winter storms.
- **Dormant oils** – Many insects that overwinter on plants can be controlled with dormant applications of horticultural oils.
- **Engraver beetles** – Engraver (Ips) beetles may be active during warm periods. Protect recently transplanted evergreens.

**April:**

- **European elm bark beetle** – Pruned elm wood and logs should be destroyed to prevent beetle emergence and Dutch elm disease (DED).
- **Honeysuckle aphid** – Prune old damaged terminals to remove eggs.
- **Colley spruce gall** – Controls are best applied before the insects make their egg sacks in late April.
- **Fire blight** – Preventative spray should be applied during bloom.
- **Ash borer** – Flights of adult moths begin in late April.
- **Aspen leaf spots** – Fungal infections start at bud break; preventative treatments are applied at this time.
- **European elm bark beetle, Dutch elm disease** – Preventative sprays should be applied before adults emerge and fly (late April and early May).
- **Last killing frost** – In Fort Collins, the average date for the last killing frost is April 28.
- **Pinyon tip moths** – Larvae remain exposed on bark and can be controlled at this time.

**May:**

- **Pine needle scale** – Expect emergence of crawlers at this time.
- **Spruce budworm** – Overwintered larvae may begin to tunnel needles.
- **Tent caterpillars** – Larvae may be seen making tents on various fruit and shade trees.
- **Honeylocust plant bug** – Young nymphs begin to damage new growth.
- **Oystershell scale** – Crawler emergence typically occurs in late May.
- **Pinyon tip moth** – Larvae start to tunnel into terminals.
- **European elm bark beetle** – Adults emerge and may attack new trees, transmitting Dutch elm disease.

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### June:

- **Mountain pine beetle** – Start watching for fading ponderosa pines.
- **Honeysuckle aphid** – Damage to new growth begins to become evident.
- **Honeylocust plant bugs** – Peak injury by nymphs will end soon.
- **Elm leaf beetle** – Egg laying peak occurs about this time of year.
- **Codling moth** – Spraying after petal fall can help control the first generation.
- **Western spruce budworm** – Treatment time is during outbreaks.
- **Pinyon spindlegall midge** – Adults emerge and lay eggs at the base of developing needles.
- **Peach tree borer** – Adult emergence starts to increase.
- **European elm scale** – Egg hatching and crawler stage begin.

### July:

- **Peach tree borer** – Preventative sprays should be made by this time to kill newly hatched larvae.
- **Mountain pine beetle** – Watch for faders, conduct preventative spraying and complete sanitation work from last year's hits by mid-July.
- **Spruce spider mite** – Check spruce and juniper for developing outbreaks.
- **Codling moth** – Second and most damaging generation begins to lay eggs. Monitor with pheromone traps in mid-July.
- **Pear slug** – Larvae damage cherry, plum, cotton easter and pear.
- **Pine needle scale** – Watch for egg hatch of the second generation.

### August:

- **Mountain pine beetle** – Adults emerge and fly to new trees during the end of July and early August.
- **Honeylocust spider mites** – Populations increase rapidly and cause leaf bronzing.
- **Peach tree borer** – Second treatment should be made if heavy flights of adult moths continue.
- **Yellow jackets** – Nest size and nuisance problems become more severe.

### September:

- **Pear slug** – Damage by the second generation occurs during early September.
- **Aphids on trees** – Aphids develop high populations on many trees.
- **Fall fertilization** – Fall is the best time to fertilize lawns.

### October:

- **First killing frost** – In Fort Collins, the average date for the first killing frost is October 7.
- **Needle drop of pines** – Pines naturally shed third-year needles in the fall.