Honeylocust Plant Bug

Honeylocust and Black Locust Trees

Photo, above: Plant bug damage causes the leaves to turn yellow, then brown and curl. (Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org) **Photo, right:** The leaves of affected trees will often turn brown and persist on the tree until the fall. (Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org)

What is Honeylocust Plant Bug?

Honeylocust plant bug, *Diaphnocoris chlorionis*, is a common insect that infests locust trees. They injure the tree by feeding on the sap, which distorts and deforms the leaves. Often the tree will appear very thin and the tiny leaflets will be shriveled.

Photos, above: Honeylocust plant bug adults are pale green and about 1/8th of an inch long. (E. Bradford Walker, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks andRecreation, Bugwood.org). **Left:** Honeylocust plant bug nymphs look just like the adults, but are smaller. (Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org)

Biology

- **Eggs overwinter in twigs and branches.**
- **Eggs hatch shortly after the buds open in the spring.**
- **Nymphs feed for the next 3-4 weeks until they mature.**
- **Adults mate and lay eggs, which will hatch next spring.**

Susceptible Trees

All varieties of honeylocusts and black locusts are susceptible to plant bug attacks.

Signs and Symptoms

- **Yellowish-white leaf stippling on upper surfaces that eventually turns brown.**
- **Leaf rolling, distortion, and chlorosis.**
- **Thin canopy, often parts of the tree will look defoliated with heavier infestations.**
- **Chlorotic spots turn brown, and entire leaf dries and drops.**
- **Severe infestations may lead to complete defoliation, but death rarely occurs.**

Honeylocust Plant Bug Treatment Strategies

From left to right: ***Xytect***™ gallon is a long lasting soil applied insecticide that treats 640 diameter inches for plant bug. ***Up-Star® Gold*** is a foliar sprayed insecticide used to control plant bugs. A ***hand pump sprayer*** like this one is used to apply spray products like Up-Star® Gold.

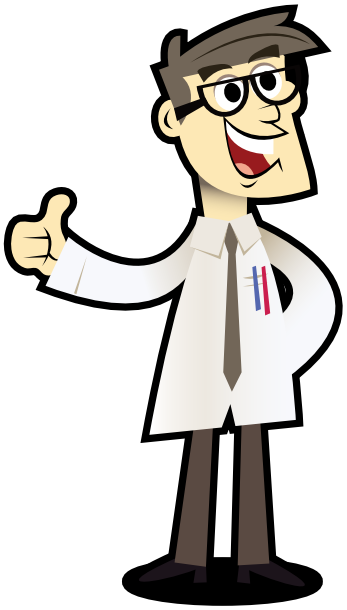
Treatment Strategies

Repeated defoliation can reduce the energy reserves and make affected trees more susceptible to other insect and disease attacks. Soil applied systemic insecticides such as **Xytect™** and **Transtect™** are applied at the base of the tree and are taken up by the root system to work from the inside of the plant. A contact insecticide, such as **Up-Star® Gold,** can be sprayed and is very effective as long as even coverage of the foliage is achieved.

Transtect™ is applied to the soil and will work quickly, usually in about 7 days. One treatment lasts the entire season, but should be applied just as leaves are emerging to control feeding nymphs.

Xytect™ is applied to the soil and has a long residual (1 year); however, it usually will take 30 – 60 days for the product to reach the leaves. Professional arborists will often apply Xytect™ in the fall of the year for control the whole next season. Application in the spring, just as buds are swelling, can also be very effective.

Spray products, such as Up-Star® Gold, are not used very often anymore for larger trees as there are issues with drift and contact with beneficial insects. They are however still used on smaller plants that are easily treated with a hand sprayer. These products typically have a residual of 10 – 14 days, so applications should be done once leaves have fully emerged.
Often a second application is necessary two weeks later to control any insects that remain.



DIY Shopping List

Option 1:

Application Type – Soil drench,
Soil injection
DIY Product/Equipment Needed

- ☐ **Transtect™ or Xytect™**
- ☐ Measuring or diameter tape
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ *Soil Drench:* Bucket or watering can
- ☐ *Soil Injection:* HTI Soil Injection Kit

Option 2:

Application Type – Foliar spray
DIY Product/Equipment Needed

- ☐ **Up-Star® Gold**
- ☐ Hand pump sprayer with wand
- ☐ Gloves/Safety glasses

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