

## **Problem:** Plant Bug/Leafhopper Complex



## **Hosts:** Honeylocust

**Description:** This is a group of five different insects consisting of three plant bug species and a single leafhopper and treehopper species. All overwinter as eggs mostly on or just beneath the bark of the current year's twigs. Eggs hatch at a time coinciding with the opening of leaf buds, generally about early April. Nymphs suck sap from small expanding leaves. After approximately 30 days, nymphs attain adult status. Adults deposit eggs in late May and early June. The eggs, as mentioned before, hatch the following spring. There is one generation per year.

Small developing leaves are sensitive to the feeding activities of the developing nymphs. Leaf cells are killed and leaves become distorted as they unfurl and expand. While heavily damaged leaves drop off, they are soon replaced by a new flush of normal leaves from axillary buds, so trees will have a normal look for most of the season. Less damaged, but distorted, leaves do not drop off but remain intact giving the tree an aesthetically unacceptable appearance.

**Recommendations:** Successful control is dependent upon timely insecticide treatments which must coincide with the emergence of nymphs from overwintered eggs or before nymphs cause extensive feeding damage. A number of insecticides can be used including acephate (Orthene), cyfluthrin (Tempo, Bayer Vegetable & Garden

Insect Spray), cyhalothrin (Scimitar, Spectracide Triazicide) and permethrin (numerous trade names).

**References:**

1. [Honeylocust Plant Bug](#), Penn State University, Entomological Notes
2. Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs, Cornell University Press, pg 358

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