

CMG GardenNotes #108

Lab Worksheet: Diagnosis Practice

The objective of this exercise is to give you practice diagnosing tree insects and diseases.

For this activity, refer to *Insects and Diseases of Woody Plants in Colorado*. On pages 295 to 314 is a *Diagnostic Key to... Woody Plant Disorders*. Answer the following questions by using the key and reference pages cited.

Plant 1

1. Plant ID: Douglas fir
2. Describe signs and symptoms:
 - a. In severely stressed to recently killed trees, you find piles of sawdust and fiber accumulating beneath them. Wide galleries, just under the bark, are filled with fibrous material. You also find adult beetles that are about an inch long, brownish-gray with white specks and very long antennae.

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- b. What is the most likely (probable) insect causing the sawdust and fibrous material?



Plant 2

1. Plant ID: Aspen
2. Describe signs and symptoms:
 - a. In the spring, leaves are being eaten by caterpillars. They have a bright blue stripe on their side and yellow, keyhole shaped spots on their back. Your neighbor thought they were tent caterpillars, but you can't find any tents.
 - b. What are the possible insects that could be causing the problem?
 - c. Which insect do you think is causing the damage?



Plant 3

1. Plant ID: Crabapple
2. Describe signs and symptoms:
 - a. Four crabapple trees were lost to what a gardener believes is "fire blight". The trees were planted in an irrigated lawn area three years ago, but never really grew well. The first spring (just after planting) the trees bloomed, but new growth was minimal. The second year, the trees looked "blighted" with smaller pale leaves and no new growth. By the third season, the trees progressively declined, having no blossoms, tiny pale leaves and no twig growth. Most leaves dropped by mid-summer. In fall as the homeowner removed the dead trees, he discovered a large discolored area on the trunks just below ground level. He would like to replace the trees with fire blight resistant cultivars so he won't have this problem again.
 - b. What are the possible causes of this problem?
 - c. What is the probable (likely) cause?



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