

## Buckeye

(*Aesculus spp.*) — *Ohio Buckeye, Red Buckeye, Yellow Buckeye, Hybrid Horsechestnuts*

Buckeyes are admired for their **showy spring flowers, bold palmate leaves, and distinctive nuts**. In Colorado, they perform moderately well but can struggle with **leaf scorch, leaf blotch, mildew, borers, aphids, and environmental heat stress**. Ohio Buckeye and hybrid types tend to handle Colorado's climate better than European Horsechestnut.



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## Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | 🌻 Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Leaf blotch ( <i>Guignardia</i> )	Fungus	Spring–Summer	🌸 🌻
Leaf scorch (abiotic)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	🌻 🍂
Powdery mildew	Fungus	Summer–Fall	🌻 🍂
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸 🌻 🍂

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Active Season</u></b>	<b><u>Icons</u></b>
<b>Japanese beetles (Front Range)</b>	Insect	Summer	
<b>Borers</b>	Insect/borer	Summer	
<b>Scale insects</b>	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 
<b>Leaf miner</b>	Insect	Summer	

### **Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Common Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Treatment &amp; Management</u></b>
<b>Leaf Blotch (Very Common)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown irregular patches</li> <li>• Spots may merge</li> <li>• Early leaf drop by late summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rake leaves and debris</li> <li>• Improve airflow via light pruning</li> <li>• Fungicide seldom necessary</li> </ul>
<b>Leaf Scorch (Major Issue in Colorado)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Browning tips &amp; margins</li> <li>• Leaves dry and curl</li> <li>• Premature fall color</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep water every 2–3 weeks in summer</li> <li>• Maintain mulch ring</li> <li>• Avoid reflective heat &amp; compacted soil</li> </ul>
<b>Powdery Mildew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White powdery coating on leaves</li> <li>• Distorted new growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase airflow</li> <li>• Water roots, not foliage</li> <li>• Fungicide only for severe, repeated infections</li> </ul>

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Common Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Treatment &amp; Management</u></b>
<b>Aphids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky honeydew</li> <li>• Sooty mold</li> <li>• Leaf curling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hose off leaves</li> <li>• Encourage lady beetles</li> <li>• Systemic insecticide if large colony forms</li> </ul>
<b>Japanese Beetles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeletonized leaves</li> <li>• Clusters of beetles feeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand-pick early morning</li> <li>• Avoid JB-attracting plants nearby</li> <li>• Professional insecticide if severe</li> </ul>
<b>Borers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exit holes</li> <li>• Sawdust-like frass</li> <li>• Branch dieback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid stress and trunk wounds</li> <li>• Water regularly</li> <li>• Preventive sprays (professionally applied) if needed</li> </ul>
<b>Scale</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small bumps on twigs</li> <li>• Honeydew, black mold</li> <li>• Thinning canopy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormant oil in late winter</li> <li>• Treat crawler stage in late spring</li> <li>• Prune heavily infested stems</li> </ul>
<b>Leaf Miner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown mines/tunnels in leaves</li> <li>• Cosmetic browning</li> <li>• Rarely causes decline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove infested leaves</li> <li>• Usually does not require treatment</li> </ul>

### When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

#### ● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Severe scorch every summer despite proper watering
- Heavy leaf blotch causing near-total defoliation early each year
- Repeated Japanese beetle attacks thinning the canopy
- Borer exit holes combined with dieback

- Progressive thinning of canopy or poor annual growth

These conditions may require **professional evaluation and a change in site care.**

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### ● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Mild leaf blotch or scorch late in summer
- Light aphid activity with minimal honeydew
- Occasional mildew on shaded leaves
- Minor leaf miner trails
- Early fall color during drought years

These issues typically resolve with **good watering habits and leaf cleanup.**