

Golden Rain Tree

(*Koelreuteria paniculata* — includes 'September,' 'Fastigiata,' and other ornamental selections)

Golden Rain Tree is a **small to medium ornamental tree** known for its **showy yellow midsummer flowers**, **attractive lantern-like seed pods**, and high tolerance of **heat, drought, and urban soils**. It performs quite well in Colorado, though it can experience **leaf spot, borers, scale, and occasional environmental scorch**.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Leaf spot (fungal)	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Tubakia leaf spot	Fungus	Summer–Fall	 
Scale insects	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Borers (flatheaded & roundheaded)	Insect/borer	Summer	
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Environmental stress (heat/drought)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Leaf Spot (Common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown or black blotches • Premature leaf drop in wet years • Often cosmetic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake fallen leaves • Improve airflow • Fungicide rarely required
Tubakia Leaf Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular brown lesions with darker margins • Leaf yellowing & drop late summer • Similar to oak leaf spot species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitize leaf litter • Improve canopy airflow • Fungicide only for repeated severe cases
Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard bumps or cottony masses on twigs • Honeydew & sooty mold • Thinning foliage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat crawler stage in late spring • Apply horticultural oil in late winter • Prune severely infested branches
Borers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit holes (oval or round) • Sawdust-like frass • Branch dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tree vigor with watering/mulch • Avoid trunk injury • Professional preventive sprays if borer pressure is high

Problem	Common Symptoms	Treatment & Management
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew on leaves & surfaces • Sooty mold • Leaf curl or distortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Encourage lady beetles • Systemic treatments for major infestations
Environmental Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf scorch on hot days • Early yellowing • Sparse canopy if drought-stressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2-3 weeks • Mulch to retain soil moisture • Avoid harsh west-facing reflective heat sites

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Severe scale infestation with black sooty mold
- Borer exit holes combined with branch dieback
- Extensive leaf drop early in the season
- Progressive thinning over multiple years
- Repeated scorch even with proper watering
- Multiple dead branches (check for canker or borer)

These situations may require **professional diagnosis**.

● Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Light leaf spotting
- Minor aphid activity in midsummer

- Occasional scorch in extreme heat
- Early fall color during drought
- Limited amounts of scale on small twigs

Golden Rain Tree is **generally resilient**, with cosmetic issues being more common than serious threats.