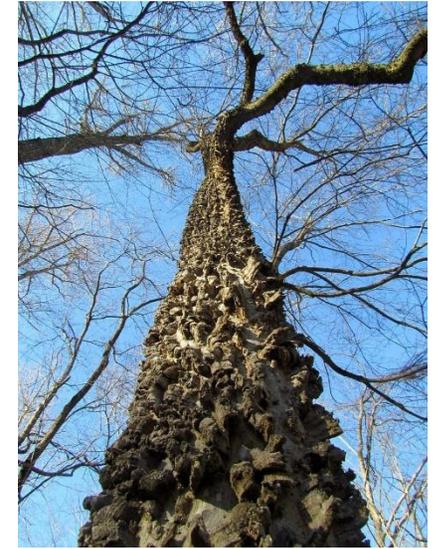


Hackberry

(*Celtis occidentalis* — Common Hackberry)

Hackberry is one of the **hadiest and most reliable** shade trees for Colorado. It tolerates drought, alkaline soils, wind, urban pollution, and temperature extremes. While generally low-maintenance, Hackberry can experience **nipplegall psyllids**, **witches' broom**, **scale**, **leaf spots**, and occasional **borer or canker issues**.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

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

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Nipplegall psyllid	Insect	Spring–Summer	🌸 ☀️
Hackberry witches' broom	Fungus + insect complex	Visible year-round	❄️ 🌸 ☀️ 🍂

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Scale insects	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Leaf spot / anthracnose	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Borers (rare unless stressed)	Insect/borer	Summer	
Canker diseases	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Drought stress	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Nipplegall Psyllid (Very Common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiny bumps or “nipple galls” on leaves • Leaves may be puckered or distorted • No long-term harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No treatment recommended—cosmetic only • Rake leaves to reduce next year’s population
Hackberry Witches’ Broom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense, broom-like twig clusters • Caused by fungus + mites • Often harmless but unattractive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune out worst clusters in winter • Improve vigor with watering & mulch • No effective chemical cure

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Scale Insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew & sooty mold • Hard or cottony bumps on twigs • Thinning foliage if severe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat crawler stage in late spring • Horticultural oil in late winter • Prune infested branches
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honeydew and sooty mold • Minor leaf curling • Attracts ants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse leaves • Encourage predators (lady beetles) • Systemic treatments for major outbreaks
Leaf Spot / Anthracnose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown blotches or irregular patches • Early leaf drop in wet springs • Often tree refooliates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up fallen leaves • Improve airflow • Generally cosmetic—rarely needs treatment
Borers (Flatheaded or Roundheaded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit holes • Branch dieback • More common in drought-stressed trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep watering during drought • Avoid trunk injury • Pro pesticide only when confirmed
Canker Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunken bark areas • Dead patches on twigs or branches • Dieback from tips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune infected limbs back to collar • Sanitize tools • Improve vigor—no chemical cure
Drought Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf scorch • Sparse canopy • Early leaf drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 3–4 weeks • Maintain mulch ring • Avoid soil compaction over roots

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Significant branch dieback or top-down decline
- Multiple expanding cankers on limbs

- Large areas of bark cracking or peeling
- Severe scale infestation with black sooty mold
- Borer exit holes combined with thinning canopy
- Repeated early defoliation leading to decline

These conditions may require **professional arborist evaluation**.

● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Nipplegall psyllid bumps on leaves (extremely common)
- Minor witches' broom clusters
- Light aphid or scale activity
- Small leaf spots from wet weather
- Early yellowing in drought

Most Hackberry issues do **not** threaten the tree's health and resolve with **normal seasonal care**.