Sherrie Smith

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Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Wheat

Wheat is very sensitive to glyphosate drift during the reproductive stages. Avoid herbicide drift from burn-down applications made at this time. Other burn-down herbicides like Ignite (Liberty) and Gramoxone (paraquat) may cause more immediate visual symptoms but have fewer long-term effects. When making burn-down applications remember to “Keep it in the Field!”.

Wheat Glyphosate Drift-Abiotic

Bob Scott, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

African Violet

African violets (*Saintpaulia* spp.) are popular indoor blooming plants. There are thousands of cultivars in a wide range of color and bloom style. They are easy to grow when given enough light, humidity, and moisture. African violets need bright light for 14-16 hours a day to bloom well, but not direct sunlight. They are very subject to root and crown rots if kept too wet. Repeated leaf wetness can cause a leaf disease known as Corynespora leaf spot caused by *Corynespora cassiicola*. Large brown lesions occur at leaf tips and margins. Badly infected leaves will wilt. Control methods include picking Infected leaves and discarding them. Reducing leaf wetness and humidity are critical to avoiding Corynespora leaf spot. Ornamental fungicides containing chlorothalonil are effective for control of this fungus.

African Violet Corynespora-*Corynespora cassiicola*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

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SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

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Apple and Crabapple

Apple wooly aphids (*Eriosoma lanigerum*) are small purple insects, about 1/12 inch long, and covered with a white cottony like secretion. They are often found near wounds on branches and roots. Galls may form on infested roots and stems in response to Wooly aphid feeding. In young trees serious damage and tree death may occur when roots are heavily infested as fibrous roots are destroyed. Yellowing foliage is a sign that wooly aphids may be attacking the roots. Multiple generations are produced each year making control difficult. Fine horticultural oil sprays may be used to control above ground populations. Thiodan is also labeled for Apple wooly aphid. There are no below ground chemical controls recommended.

Apple Wooly Aphid- *Eriosoma lanigerum*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Apple Wooly Aphid- *Eriosoma lanigerum*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Oak

Oak gouty gall, and Oak horned gall are several of the interesting insect galls frequently found on oak species, predominately scarlet, red, pin, water, and black oaks. The two galls have similar life cycles. These types of galls are caused by a tiny insect belonging to the cynipid wasps. The adult wasps are small, black with a shiny, oval, and slightly compressed abdomen. The larvae are white and globular. Female wasps lay eggs in the spring on the veins of oak leaf buds. At midsummer adults emerge and mate and lay eggs in young oak twigs. The next year swellings appear and enlarge over the next two or three years. The

swellings are a hormonal response to the insect. The enlarged galls provide food and protection for the growing larvae. With horned galls, when the larvae reach maturity, the galls develop horns from which the insects emerge. With gouty gall, the wasps emerge directly from holes in the gall. It is unusual for the galls to cause any lasting harm to the tree. However, small trees with heavy infections may sometimes lose branches and even die. If practical, Galls may be pruned out and destroyed. These small wasps do not sting people.

Oak Gouty Gall-

Callirhytis quercuspunctata

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Watermelon

Gummy stem blight caused by *Didymella byroniae* is a common and serious disease of cucurbits. Leaf symptoms are circular dark spots, often beginning at the leaf margins. The lesions expand rapidly, causing blighting and death of affected leaves. On stems reddish-brown cankers appear with water-soaked edges. These cankers often exude a clear to brown colored sap, giving rise to the common name Gummy stem blight. The lesions can appear on all parts of the vine including fruits. Small dark spore producing structures form on the damaged tissue. Pristine is the fungicide of choice for Gummy stem blight. It must be rotated with other fungicides such as Chlorothalonil, and not used more than four times a season. Follow label closely. Clean up all debris in the field and destroy. Avoid overhead irrigation systems if possible or water early in the day so foliage can dry.

Watermelon Gummy Stem Blight- *Didymella byroniae*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

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Watermelon Gummy Stem Blight- *Didymella byroniae*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

This bulletin from the Cooperative Extension Plant Health Clinic (Plant Disease Clinic) is an electronic update about diseases and other problems observed in our lab each month. Input from everybody interested in plants is welcome and appreciated.

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