



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Pine

Brown Spot Needle Blight, caused by *Mycosphaerella acicola*, formerly *Scirrhia acicola*, is a fungal disease of longleaf and Scotch pine. Symptoms first appear as irregularly circular light gray-green spots on needles in the fall. Spots enlarge rapidly and encircle the needle forming narrow tan-brownish bands, and finally the tips of the needles die because of multiple infections. Many needles may be killed the first season they are infected. With repeated infections, long-leaf seedlings are characterized by a long needleless stem with a tuft of severely infected needles at the end of the stem. The fungus fruits on very small dark brown to black colored elongated spots on the dead part of the needle. Spores are produced in wet weather and the needles may be attacked several times in one season. At least three successive annual defoliations must occur to kill longleaf pine seedlings. The best control in longleaf plantations is obtained by controlled winter burning until seedlings are above 18 inches high (the brown spot danger level). In nurseries and on valuable specimen trees apply fungicidal sprays at two-week intervals, during humid weather, from April 15 through May.

Copper fungicides and Chlorothalonil are very effective against this disease.

Pine Brown Spot-*Mycosphaerella acicola*, formerly *Scirrhia acicola*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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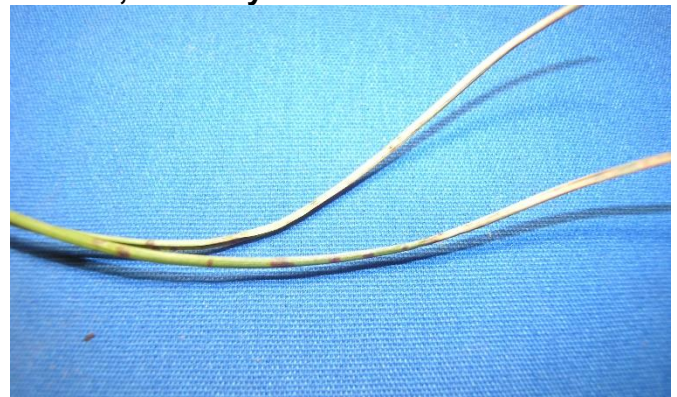


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Peach

Red spots on peach can be caused by several factors. Lesions with white centers are caused by peach scale feeding injury. If two dormant oil treatments are made the previous winter, scale injury is unlikely. Red spots without white centers may be caused by a poorly understood condition called Red Spot of peach. The fungus, *Alternaria Alternaria*, has been implicated in the condition. Red Spot lesions are smaller than lesions caused by scale damage (1-3mm), and superficial with no underlying tissue damage. Two to three sprays of Ziram applied at two-week intervals three weeks after pit hardening have been found to reduce the incidence of Red spot.

Peach Scale on fruit- *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Lilac

Bacterial blight of lilac is caused by the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*. The disease is also commonly referred to as Shoot Blight and Blossom Blight. The disease is usually associated with plants that have been stressed by drought, improper fertilization, poor site choices, and/or have been wounded. The pathogen has also been reported on other ornamental plants such as Forsythia. Bacterial spot causes large brown water-soaked spots on leaves and stems. The diseased tissue eventually turns black. Blackened growing tips wilt and often form shepherds' crooks that resemble fire blight. Diseased plant parts should be immediately removed and destroyed. Prune only when the weather is dry. Copper fungicides applied after leaf drop in the fall are thought to reduce disease incidence.

Lilac Bacterial Blight- *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Artillery fungus

Artillery or “Shotgun” fungi are a group of fascinating fungi belonging to the genus *Sphaerobolus*. These fungi are found in organic matter such as dung, decayed wood, and mulch. Artillery fungi get their name from their spore dispensing mechanism. The dark brown spore packets sit atop little cups that accumulate water and cell contents. When enough liquid accumulates, the cups invert and burst, throwing the spore packets feet into the air. The fungi are light sensitive and direct their spores towards it. As a result, they often land on light colored house siding or cars. The spores have a natural adhesive that makes removal difficult once the glue dries. Scrubbing them off with water and soap is hard work and not completely satisfactory. On the bright side, they do no real damage in themselves. Replacing mulches periodically helps reduce colony numbers.

Artillery Fungus- *Sphaerobolus* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Artillery Fungus- *Sphaerobolus* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Tomato with Artillery Fungus spore packets- *Sphaerobolus* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Sherrie Smith



Issue 23-September 4, 2008

Okra

Stinkbugs attack many crops. On okra, their feeding can cause pod distortion and pod drop. Some authorities also claim that stinkbug feeding causes hard little bumps or warts on the pods. We see these symptoms every season on young okra pods. Growers should scout for stinkbugs early and often. Aza-Direct and Azatin XL are labeled for stinkbug on Okra.

Okra Stinkbug Damage- Pentatomidae



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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.

"This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27279/project accession no. 1013890] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture."