Sherrie Smith

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Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Dogwood

Dogwood borers, *Synanthedon scitula*, are pests of dogwood, pecan, hickory, elm, and willow. The damage is done by the larvae feeding under the bark. An early symptom of borer damage is leaves turning prematurely red in the summer. Swollen areas on limbs, peeling bark, and exit holes are additional symptoms. Heavily infested limbs and branches can die. Successive seasons of infestation may kill the tree entirely. Most dogwood borers emerge in May, but a few continue to emerge until September. The larvae overwinter in the tree. The best defense against borers is to maintain good tree health. Dogwoods grow best in humus rich soil with good drainage and afternoon shade. Borer sprays may be applied to the trunk in May. The treatment should be repeated at 6-week intervals 2-3 times. Bifenthrin and permethrins are labeled for borer control. A fine wire inserted into the entry hole will sometimes kill the larvae.

Dogwood Borer Injury-
Synanthedon scitula

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Dogwood Borer Larva-
Synanthedon scitula

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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Dogwood Borer Adult- *Synanthedon scitula*

Photo by David Laughlin, Horticultural student, Bugwood.org

Bedding plants

Gray mold, caused by *Botrytis cinerea*, is perhaps the most common fungal disease found in greenhouses. It can infect all above ground parts of the plant causing bud blast, leaf spots, flower blight, stem canker, and crown rot. Symptoms are soft, brown water-soaked spots that become covered with a grayish fuzzy spore mass. Death comes quickly when the disease spreads to the stem. Infected plants should be removed and destroyed as soon as the disease is identified. Maintaining the humidity at below 85% and improving air circulation will go a long way toward control of Gray mold. It's also important to keep the greenhouse free of weeds and debris. Overhead watering should be avoided where possible. Fungicides such as Phyton-27 and Daconil provide good control when coupled with good cultural practices.

Annual Vinca Botrytis- *Botrytis cinerea*

Photo by Jim Robbins, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Hosta

Hosta samples have been arriving at the clinic with Hosta Virus X. This is a sap transmitted virus, and like all viruses is not curable. The virus comes into a nursery from producer fields. This is largely due to machine harvesting and bulk washing to prepare for shipping. At the

nursery or the homeowners, it is spread by trimming or dividing infected plants. The virus is not spread by insects nor is it soilborne. To prevent virus transmission, great care must be taken to dip tools in a 10% bleach solution before handling another hosta. Wearing disposable gloves and changing them between plants is also advisable. Symptoms are blue or yellow ring spots, mottling, bleeding along veins, and/or a zipper pattern. The bleeding along the veins is often blue in color. This virus seldom kills a plant but weakens them and often causes unsightly necrotic spots on the leaves as well as the mottling. The clinic has a reliable Elisa test to detect the virus.

Hosta Virus X (HVX)-*Potyxvirus*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Hosta Virus X (HVX)-*Potyxvirus*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Soybean herbicide damage by Bob Scott

Many herbicide burndown programs include the herbicide dicamba which is sold under several trade names including Clarity, Banvel and Cambamaster. Typically, dicamba is included in burndown applications to control glyphosate resistant horseweed. Soybeans are sensitive to dicamba, both from post applications and soil residues. We recommend planting soybeans no sooner than 14 days following an inch of rain following an application of dicamba. See page 24 of the MP-44.

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Soybean Dicamba Injury-Abiotic

Photo by Dr. Cal Shumway, Arkansas State University

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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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