



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Yucca

Yucca is widely used in the landscape for the value of its strong form, evergreen foliage, and for its attractive bloom spikes of white flowers. It requires at least 6 hours of full sun and extremely well-drained soil for best growth. Brown leaf spot is the most common leaf spot disease found on yucca. This disease is caused by the fungus *Coniothyrium concentricum*. Initial symptoms are tiny clear spots on older leaves. The spots enlarge, become yellow, and eventually turn brown. A chlorotic halo, or a dark purple to black margin forms around older lesions. After about 4 months, black pycnidia may be easily observed in the middle of the spots. These are the fruiting bodies that produce spores. The most important control measures are to remove diseased leaves and avoid overhead irrigation. Fungicides may prove necessary for control in unusually wet weather. Ornamental fungicides containing chlorothalonil are effective. However, fungicide applications must be made at the first sign of disease.

Yucca Brown Spot- *Coniothyrium concentricum*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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Buckeye

Buckeye blotch, caused by *Guignardia aesculi*, creates an unsightly problem on most horse chestnut and buckeye species. However, damage to the plant is minimal because the disease typically becomes severe late in the season when the tree already has stored energy for the next season. It is an unsightly disease, however, so some homeowners will want to apply treatment if this is an annual problem in their landscape. Symptoms first appear on leaves as water-soaked areas which turn reddish-brown to brown with yellow borders. These spots coalesce, causing large blotches which curl the leaves. By late summer the whole plant appears scorched. Fallen leaves harbor the spores, so a thorough cleanup of twigs and leaves is important in control of Buckeye blotch. As with other leaf spot diseases, infection is intensified by humid conditions. Improving air circulation by keeping weeds and other plants away from valuable specimens helps to reduce disease. Fungicides containing mancozeb or chlorothalonil are effective applied at bud break during wet springs. Reapply at intervals specified on the label if wet conditions persist. For new plantings, select plants with resistance to *Guignardia* blotch such as bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parvifolia*).

Buckeye Blotch- *Guignardia aesculi*



Photo by Mikiata Carroll, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Camellia

Camellia yellow mottle virus (CYMoV) affects only camellias. Visual symptoms are leaves with a bold mottled pattern of dark green and pale yellow. The disease appears to develop slowly within the bush, with initially only a few branches showing infection. The symptoms may show one season and not the next, although the plant will still have the virus. CYMoV is thought to be graft transmitted and not passed from one plant to another in a garden setting. It appears to have little effect on plant vigor or flowering and is often tolerated, since it poses no threat to other plants. The virus can be confused with mite injury which causes yellow stippling on seriously affected leaves. Virus is not curable. Some plants will have both virus and mites. Do not purchase plants with these symptoms.



Camellia Yellow Mottle Virus (CYMoV)



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Camellia Yellow Mottle Virus (CYMoV)



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Wheat

Scab or Head blight occurs on all small grain crops and is especially prevalent in humid regions. One or more spikelet on a head appears bleached. If the rachis is infected the entire head is bleached. Pink or orange mycelium and dark fruiting bodies can be seen with a hand lens. Significant yield losses may result from floret sterility and poor seed fill. *Fusarium* species are the causal agent in nearly all cases of scab. Crop rotation with at least a one-year break from cereal and grass cultivation is advised. Scab can be particularly damaging following corn. Deep plowing and



seed treatments have been found to be helpful also.

Wheat Scab-*Fusarium* spp.



Photo by Jason Kelly, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Wheat Roundup Damage to Spikelets-Abiotic



Photo by Bob Scott, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Roundup on wheat by Bob Scott

In cases of severe glyphosate drift to wheat, the flag leaf will die back as in the pictures shown. Also, damage to the collar region will result in reduced flow of plant energy to the seed head. This results in malformed, damaged seed heads. Some of the individual spikelets in these photos are beginning to turn black. Yield loss will be significant.

Dead Flags and Collars



Photo by Bob Scott, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Dead Flag and Distorted Head caused by Roundup



Photo by Bob Scott, 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.

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