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Issue 10-April 21, 2010

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Yew

Yew Root Rot

Yews have very few serious disease problems when planted in semi-shaded locations in average garden soil with adequate moisture, and excellent drainage. They CANNOT tolerate soggy soils. Root diseases caused by Phytophthora and Pythium can be devastating under conditions of boggy, heavy soils. Symptoms are browning of the entire plant followed by death. Examination of the main stem at the soil line will reveal gray to black discoloration under the bark. Roots will be rotted. The only remedies for plants not yet deceased are to immediately improve drainage at the site or to transplant to a better location. Plants not too far gone may be helped by the application of Monterey Aliette or Subdue Maxx if the drainage issue is addressed.

Yew Phytophthora Root Rot- *Phytophthora* spp.

Photo by Peggy Hackett, Leisurescapes

Yew Twig Blight

We sometimes see twig blights on distressed yews. When lesions encircle the stem, dieback occurs. Lesions on the stem are brown or gray with black pimple-like fruiting bodies. Pestalotia, Sphaerulina, and Phyllosticta species can attack weakened plants and cause twig blights. Prune out cankers and spray with a product such as Daconil.

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Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
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Yew Twig Blight-*Pestalotiopsis funerea*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Blueberry

Blueberry growers should be scouting for Mummy Berry at this time. Mummy Berry is a fungal disease that can cause severe crop losses, depending on environmental conditions, cultivar susceptibility, and amount of inoculum present. The causal agent is *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*. Mummy Berry damage is caused by the blighting of flowers, leaves, and twigs, resulting in fruit losses. The first symptom is wilting of developing leaves and shoots in the spring, followed within 24 hours by browning of the upper side of bent shoots, midribs, and lateral veins of leaves. Infected shoots, leaves, and flowers are killed within 3 days after discoloration appears. Dead tissue eventually drops off the plant. Plants are then free of symptoms until berries start to ripen. Berries that are infected become cream to salmon pink, then tan or whitish gray. The mummified berries shrivel and harden, and then drop to the ground. These mummies are called pseudosclerotia. They germinate to form apothecia which resemble tiny mushrooms. The apothecia produce the ascospores that infect new tissue in the spring. Conidiophores and conidia are produced on the tissue infected by ascospores and cause secondary infections of berries. Control of Mummy Berry needs to be a combination of good cultural practices and fungicide treatments. In the fall, before leaf drop, shallowly cultivate to bury mummies. In early spring around budbreak, destroy developing apothecia by raking or cultivating soil. Some growers pile soil from between the rows at the base of the bushes and between the bushes to

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bury the mummies. They rake soil back into the rows later in spring after apothecia are gone. Practice good weed control and plant tolerant cultivars. Lime sulfur applied during the dormant season helps control Mummy Berry. Captan, Ziram, Captevate, Abound, Cabrio, Pristine, Indar, and Switch are labeled for Mummy Berry control during the growing season. Applications should begin at green tip and pink bud stage. Read labels for complete directions.

Mummy Berry apothecia-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

Photo by University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, Bugwood.org.

Blueberry Mummy Berry-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Mummy Berry berries-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

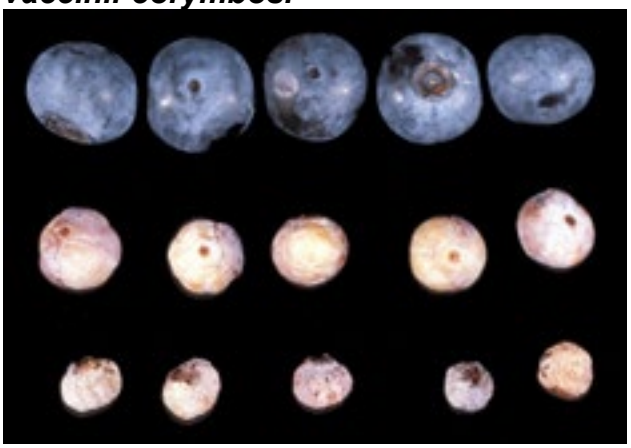

Photo by University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, Bugwood.org.

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Mummy Berry conidia-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

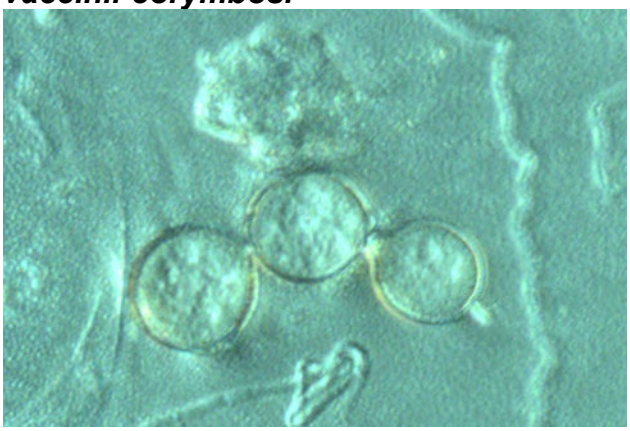

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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.

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