



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Walnut

Walnut blister gall is caused by eriophyid mites. These are tiny, carrot shaped mites that invade the leaf tissue, causing blister-like deformities. On the underside of the leaf is a yellow to orange felt-like mass, in which the mites may be found. The velvety areas turn brown later in the season. Eriophyid mites are a common pest of walnut and butternut but do no real harm to the trees. No controls are warranted.

### Walnut Blister Gall-*Eriophyes erinea*



Photo by Shawn Burgess, University of Arkansas  
Cooperative Extension

### Walnut Blister Gall-*Eriophyes erinea*



Photo by Shawn Burgess, University of Arkansas  
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### Oak

There are about 600 species of gall wasps in the United States. Depending on the species, roots, stems, twigs, leaves, buds, or flowers are attacked. The galls are formed as a response to the wasp's laying an egg on the plant tissue, stimulating the plant to produce the gall in response to the injury. The result is food and shelter for the wasp larvae that live protected inside the gall. The Jumping oak gall is caused by *Neuroterus saltatorius*, a tiny dark wasp belonging to the Cynipid group of wasps. These small wasps are harmless to people. The Jumping oak gall has two generations a year. Females emerge in the spring from the ground and lay eggs on the leaves. The eggs hatch. Males and females mate, and the females lay eggs, resulting in the second-generation galls. The galls get their name "Jumping galls" because when they drop off the leaves to the ground the larvae inside hit the insides of the gall causing it to jump to find crevices in which to overwinter. Multiple samples of heavily galled oak leaves have



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been arriving at the Plant Health Clinic. Spots with a brown center, purple margin, and a yellow halo appear on the upper leaf surface. A tiny gall, the size of a pin head is found on the underside of the leaf. Heavily encrusted leaves turn brown and can die. Gall wasps do no lasting harm to healthy mature trees.

### **Jumping Oak Gall-*Neuroterus saltatorius***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Jumping Oak Gall-*Neuroterus saltatorius***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## **Sorghum**

Sooty blight, caused by *Ramulispora sorghi*, can attack sorghum at all growth stages. Symptoms are small, circular, reddish brown to tan spots with a yellow halo on leaves and sheaths. The lesions enlarge to form elongated to elliptical or spindle-shaped spots with straw-colored centers and reddish-purple or tan margins. Nearby lesions may coalesce to form large necrotic areas. Lesions eventually become black or sooty with tiny fruiting bodies that can be easily rubbed off. Very few commercial hybrids have resistance. Control consists of crop rotation, burying crop residue, and the use of fungicides. Quadris, Quilt, and Quilt Excel are labeled for foliar diseases of Sorghum.

### **Sorghum Sooty Blight-*Ramulispora sorghi***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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## Grape

The Grape Phylloxera, *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*, is a very destructive pest of commercial grapes. High populations of phylloxera can result in premature defoliation, reduced shoot growth, and reduced yield and quality of the crop. This phylloxera attacks roots as well as leaves. Sevin, Endosulfan, Danitol, and Admire Pro are registered for grape Phylloxera. Open galls and look for crawlers to time sprays, usually in May or mid-June.

### Grape Phylloxera-*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Onion

Smudge, caused by *Colletotrichum circinans*, occurs mainly on the dried wrapper scales and lower portions of white onions. It is less

common on colored onions. The first symptoms are dark stromata just underneath the cuticle. These structures are dark green at first but form black dots as they age. The Structures usually, but not always, form in concentric circular rings. The fruiting structures of the fungus have stiff bristles (setae) that may be seen with a hand lens. Smudge may cause premature sprouting as well as impacting marketability. Control measures are crop rotations with 3 years between onion crops, good drainage, clean seed and transplants, fungicides, drying onions before storage, and storing at 32F with less than 70% relative humidity. Pristine Bravo Ultrex, Bravo Weather Stik, and Cabrio are labeled for use on onion.

### Onion Smudge-*Colletotrichum circinans*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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.