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Issue 4-March 19, 2010

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Holly

Symptoms of Twig and Leaf Blight, caused by *Phytophthora ilicis,* begin as small purple to black spots on the leaves. The spots enlarge, coalesce, and can completely blight leaves, stems, and berry clusters. Defoliation and twig dieback can occur. Phytophthora is favored by wet, cool conditions in the spring and fall. Inoculum persists in the soil and on twig cankers. Foliage and twigs closest to the ground are often affected first. Control is a combination of applying sound cultural methods and fungicides. Diseased twigs, berries, and leaves should be pruned off and removed. Pruning to improve air circulation can also help limit disease severity. It's very important to avoid overhead irrigation which not only provides an ideal environment for the disease but also physically splashes the pathogen onto new leaves. Monterey Aliette or Monterey AGRI-FOS may be used as a foliar spray.

Holly Phytophthora Twig and Leaf Blight-*Phytophthora ilicis*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Holly Phytophthora Twig and Leaf Blight-*Phytophthora ilicis*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Blackberry

Cephaleuros virescens alga has been reported as a pathogen of nearly 300 species of plants. Of these, about 80 include stem spots or lesions as symptoms. On blackberry the disease is called Orange Felt or Orange Cane Blotch. Whitish-yellow, disk-shaped spots appear on the canes, usually more prevalent near the base of the canes. Later in the season, the spots become orange and velvety in appearance. The orange pigmentation results from the production of reddish pigments by mature spore producing structures of the alga. Under wet humid conditions, the spots often merge, nearly covering the entire cane. Orange felt may be seen on the canes from spring to fall but is more prevalent throughout summer and fall. Although the lesions themselves are superficial, they open the canes to infection by pathogenic fungi such as Botryosphaeria. The first line of defense in preventing or treating Orange Felt is to plant only in well-drained fields. Old floricanes should be removed immediately after harvest. Blackberries planted on plastic with drip irrigation have been shown to have fewer problems with Orange Felt. Since stressed plants are more susceptible to infection, care should be taken to ensure optimum growing conditions, with attention paid to pH and nutrients. Copper fungicides have been known to provide some control. Read labels carefully.

Blackberry Orange Felt-*Cephaleuros virescens*

Photo by David Stritzinger, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Daylily

Daylilies are one of the work horses of the perennial border. They are usually quite trouble free, tolerating a range of growing conditions. However, daylilies can be susceptible to a fungal disease known as Daylily Leaf Streak, caused by *Aureobasidium microstictum*, formerly known as *Collecephalus hemerocallidis.* Dark-green, water-soaked spots first appear along the leaf midvein. These lesions turn reddish-brown, enlarge, and coalesce, forming dead streaks along the length of the leaf. Severely infected leaves turn yellow and die. The chlorosis usually begins at the leaf tips. Leaves with symptoms should be immediately removed. Overcrowded clumps should be divided. Overhead irrigation should be avoided, especially when leaf disease is present. One of the most important things growers can do is to cut back and remove old foliage at the end of the growing season. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil, or myclobutanil, or thiophantae-methyl can be applied, starting at new growth in the spring. Make 3-4 applications at 14-day intervals.

Daylily Leaf Streak-*Aureobasidium microstictum*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Daylily Leaf Streak-*Aureobasidium microstictum*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Tomato

Its only mid-March, but the clinic has received its first tomato sample. The plant had clear signs of phenoxy herbicide damage. Phenoxy type herbicides include 2,4-D and Grazon, among others. Many crops are sensitive to phenoxy herbicides, with grapes and tomatoes being among the most sensitive. Beans, potatoes, cotton, other vegetables, and many flowers, trees, and shrubs can also be severely affected. Grazon contains picloram and 2,4-D, which are both growth regulator herbicides. Leaf cupping, twisting, and distorted new growth are all symptoms of growth regulator herbicide injury. It may be as long as 18 months before it is safe to replant vegetables in a garden contaminated with phenoxy

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herbicides. Take care when using these herbicides. Also be aware that some herbicides, such as Grazon, may be retained in the manure of livestock and damage crops when the manure is used as compost.

Tomato Phenoxy Herbicide Damage-Abiotic

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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