



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Oak

Phomopsis galls are caused by several species of Phomopsis in the Diaporthe group of fungi. They occur in hickories, maples, oaks, forsythia, fig, gardenia, jasmine, privet, rhododendron, elm, blueberry, and viburnum. Oaks are a common host, but hickory can also be heavily galled. Infections can be localized to a single tree, or groups of trees may be infected. Galls may eventually cause dieback or girdling of the stem that they are on, but they usually do not kill the tree. They can be a tremendous nuisance in ornamental shrubs such as forsythia, in which twig dieback may occur. There is no chemical treatment for Phomopsis galls. Homeowners may prune them out and dispose of them or choose to live with them. Phomopsis galls range in size from very small to gall masses larger than a basketball. Phomopsis galls may be easily mistaken for other types of galls. Gouty gall resembles Phomopsis but is caused by a species of cyprinid wasp. Bacterial galls such as *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* look a lot like Phomopsis galls but are usually not found as high in the tree canopy.

Oak Phomopsis Gall-*Phomopsis* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension



Hickory Phomopsis Gall- *Phomopsis* spp.



Photo by Linda Haugen, USDA Forest Service,
Bugwood.org

Forsythia Phomopsis Gall- *Phomopsis* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Iris

Iris are one of our perennial harbingers of spring. Grown in well-drained soils with plenty of sun, they have few problems. However, iris occasionally has insect problems. A sample arrived at the Clinic with a bulb mite infestation. Bulb mites are nearly microscopic insects. They are shaped like fat footballs, translucent, and colorless to pale brown. Unlike spider mites, they have only four legs instead of six. These mites feed on many species of plants: African violet, ageratum, azalea, begonia, dahlia, gerbera, gloxinia, ivy, jasmine, impatiens, lantana, marigold, peperomia, snapdragon, verbena, zinnia, iris, apple, avocado, cantaloupe, castor, citrus, coffee, cotton, eggplant, grapes, guava, papaya,



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passion fruit, pear, potato, green beans, mango, tea, and tomato. Like other types of mites, Bulb mites are sap feeders. They use their piercing mouthparts to attack the plant. The toxic saliva causes distortion, twisting, bronzing, or purpling, and stunting. Note that damage can resemble herbicide or virus damage. Lateral buds are prone to breakage and abortion. Predator mites such as *Hypoaspis aculeifer* may be deployed, but severely infested plants should be destroyed.

Iris Bulb Mite Damage- *Rhizoglyphus robini*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Iris Bulb Mite- *Rhizoglyphus robini*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Iris Bulb Mites- *Rhizoglyphus robini*

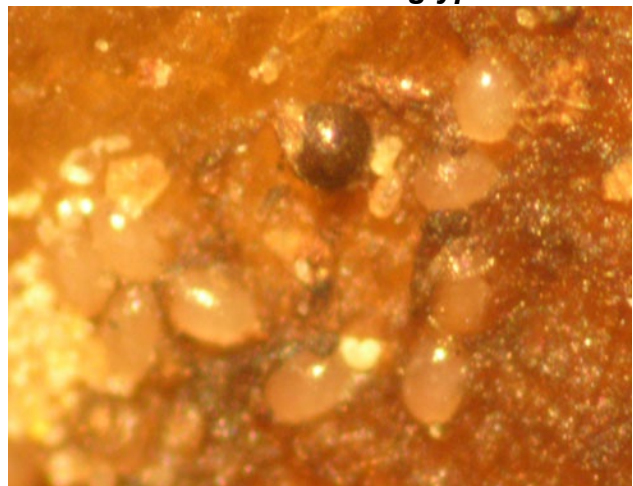


Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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.

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