DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System
Sherrie Smith

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 8-April 21, 2011

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Oak

Oak Lecanium, *Parthenolecanium quercifex*, is a species of scale insects that attack oaks, particularly trees that are already stressed by drought, herbicides, or other injury. Lecanium are large scale insects, with adult females being about ¼ inch long, oval, highly convex, and light to dark brown. They are often mistaken for galls. As with all types of scale insects, Oak Lecanium feed on the sap of the trees. Often, the first sign of infestation is the sticky, wet substance on leaves known as honeydew. This is excess plant sap that is excreted by the insects as they feed. Sooty mold fungi often colonize the honeydew, turning leaves, twigs, and branches black. Heavily infested twigs and branches may die, resulting in premature leaf drop. The females molt several times during their life cycle, becoming immobile at maturity. The males are flat and nearly transparent. Females spend the winter on the twigs of last year's growth. In early spring, they lay eggs beneath their stationary bodies and die. The eggs hatch in early summer as small, yellow crawlers. The crawlers migrate to the leaves and feed on the undersides along the midrib and veins. In late summer, crawlers journey back to the twigs where they remain for the winter. There is one generation per year. Generally, Lecanium populations are kept in check by natural predators, and by environmental factors. It is, however, sometimes necessary to apply insecticides on heavily infested, valuable landscape trees. The crawlers may be killed using Malathion, or Orthene, or Sevin, or Merit, or Bayer Advanced Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs. These products must be applied when the crawlers are feeding on the undersides of the leaves. Dormant oils may be used during the winter months when the trees are leafless to suffocate overwintering adults. Damaged trees may be helped with good cultural practices. Provide adequate water during dry periods and fertilize per soil test. Avoid damaging trees with herbicide applications, or with lawn mowers or weed eaters.

Oak Lecanium Scale-
Parthenolecanium quercifex

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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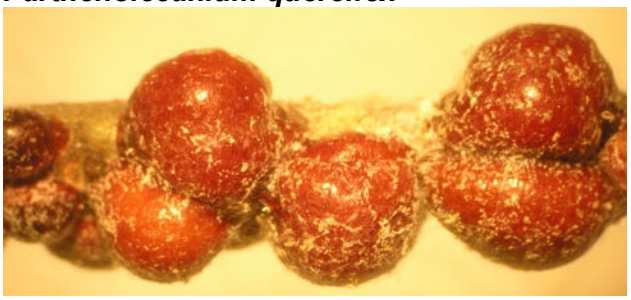

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Oak Lecanium Scale-

Parthenolecanium quercifex

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Rhododendron

Septoria leaf spot of Azalea and Rhododendron, also known as Scorch, is caused by the fungus *Septoria rhododendri*. This is a problem during the cool, wet months early in the season. Symptoms are irregular, angular, reddish-brown spots, often with yellow halos. Large areas of the leaf may be blighted when spots coalesce. The small black spore bearing structures of the fungus may be observed using a hand lens. Septoria leaf spot can cause premature defoliation and death of terminal buds. Avoid overhead irrigation and clean up any diseased leaves. Applications of fungicides 10-14 days apart following bloom will give good control. Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide, or Daconil, or Ortho Max Garden Disease Control, or Green Light Fung Away may be used. Commercial growers may use Heritage or Eagle or Banner Maxx to name a few.

Rhododendron Septoria Leaf Scorch-*Septoria rhododendri*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Rose

Spring is here and weeds are beginning to flourish. Some homeowners are weeding chemically, using glyphosate products such as Roundup. Unfortunately, roses are extremely sensitive to Roundup drift. Symptoms are yellowing, reddening, leaf deformity, and witches-broom type of growth. The symptoms can closely resemble those of Rose Rosette Virus. The virus symptoms often include unnatural proliferation of thorns. These thorns are usually soft and pliable. Virus is not curable. This virus can spread from rose to rose. If you observe these symptoms, review any herbicide used in the vicinity, keeping in mind that Roundup can drift for long distances. If there is no history of herbicide use, removal of the afflicted bush should be done.

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Rose Roundup (Glyphosate) Damage-Abiotic

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Rose Rosette Virus (RRV)-
Emaravirus

Photo by Jim Robbins, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Rose Rosette Virus (RRV)-
Emaravirus

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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