



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media



Yew

Yews are attractive, soft needled evergreen shrubs that are planted extensively as specimen plants and as hedges in landscapes. Some species grow quite large, but they tolerate pruning very well and are often used in topiary garden art. Yews tolerate a range of growing conditions as long as they are on good soil with excellent drainage. In the south yews prefer afternoon shade. When their requirements are met, yews present few problems. However, we sometimes will receive a sample of yew with a Needle Blight caused by *Gloeosporium taxicola*. This fungus causes browning of needles, followed by needle cast. When viewed with a magnifying glass, the small pustule-like fruiting bodies of the fungus may be observed. Treatment consists of pruning out the damaged twigs and applying fungicides. Fungicides such as Bayer Advanced Garden-Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, Shrubs (tebuconazole), or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide (propiconazole), or Green Light Fung-Away Fungicide (triadimefon), or Fertilome Liquid Fungicide (chlorothalonil) may be used, among others.

Yew Needle Blight-*Gloeosporium taxicola*



Photos by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Yew Needle Blight spores- *Gloeosporium taxicola*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Euonymus

Herbicides containing phenoxy compounds have growth regulators that can cause twisting, flattening of stems, leaf cupping, and adventitious roots on the stems of affected

plants. Care must be taken to avoid contact with landscape plants when using products such as 2,4-D. Be aware that some manures from pasture sources are contaminated with these types of herbicides. 2,4-D is moderately persistent in the plant and in soil. Plants not too badly affected may eventually recover.

Euonymus 2,4-D Damage-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Soybean

Some beans were extremely dry when pod initiation and pod set were beginning. The crop had also been dry for weeks in some cases before R1. With these types of growing conditions, the plant set pods that are smaller than they “normally” should be. If the crop is irrigated or if we get a soaking rain during seed fill-in, pod-splitting problems can develop. The reason for pods splitting is that beans begin to fill too fast for the pod’s capacity, which leads to splitting. These splits in the pod wall exposes the seed to injury from insects and fungi, reducing seed quality significantly.

Soybean Pod Splitting-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Soybean Pod Splitting-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Crape Myrtle

Crape Myrtle is a reliable shrub that generally has few disease problems. However it may be attacked by Powdery Mildew, caused by *Erysiphe lagerstroemiae*, when planted in areas with too much shade and poor air flow. Tender new leaves, buds, and shoots are attacked first. Symptoms are white to grayish powdery patches on the surface of plant tissue. Flowers, stems, and older growth may also be affected. Leaves and flowers may become



distorted and stunted. In severe cases leaves will turn yellow and drop prematurely. Cool nights, frequent wetting of the foliage and shady locations encourage Powdery Mildew. This disease is most prevalent in the spring and fall. Crape myrtle should be planted in a sunny location with good air circulation. The best defense against Powdery Mildew is planting resistant cultivars. Fungicides containing myclobutanil or chlorothalonil or propiconazole or azoxystrobin may be applied to suppress Powdery Mildew. Best results are obtained if plants with a history of the disease are sprayed preventively.

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.

"This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27279/project accession no. 1013890] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture."

Crape Myrtle Powdery Mildew- *Erysiphe lagerstroemiae*



Photo by Beverly Cunningham, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension