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

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 16-June 18, 2013

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media

Facebook

Ash

Ash Leaf Curl Aphids cause extensive curling, rolling, and puckering of ash leaves. These insects are woolly aphids (<1/8 inch) that produce white waxy threads that help to protect their bodies. Aphids are sap feeders, feeding on plant cells and sucking up the contents. They excrete excess sugary sap, producing sticky residue commonly called honeydew. This attracts various fungi that can coat the leaves giving them a sooty appearance, hence the common name “Sooty Mold”. Sooty Mold is common on azaleas, crape myrtles, and other plants attacked by sap sucking insects. Stressed trees are more likely to have large insect populations. Drought, herbicide injury, and poor planting sites may trigger explosions of Leaf Curl Aphids. If the tree is small enough to make spraying practical, insecticidal soaps, neem oil, or fine horticultural oil are safe and effective. Imidacloprid soil drenches applied in the root zone also can reduce aphid populations but can take up to a month before seeing results on larger trees. Lady beetles, green lacewings, syrphid flies, and small parasitic wasps are natural predators of aphids and provide control without spraying most years.

Ash Leaf Curl Aphid-*Prociphilus (Meliarhizophagus) fraxinifolii*

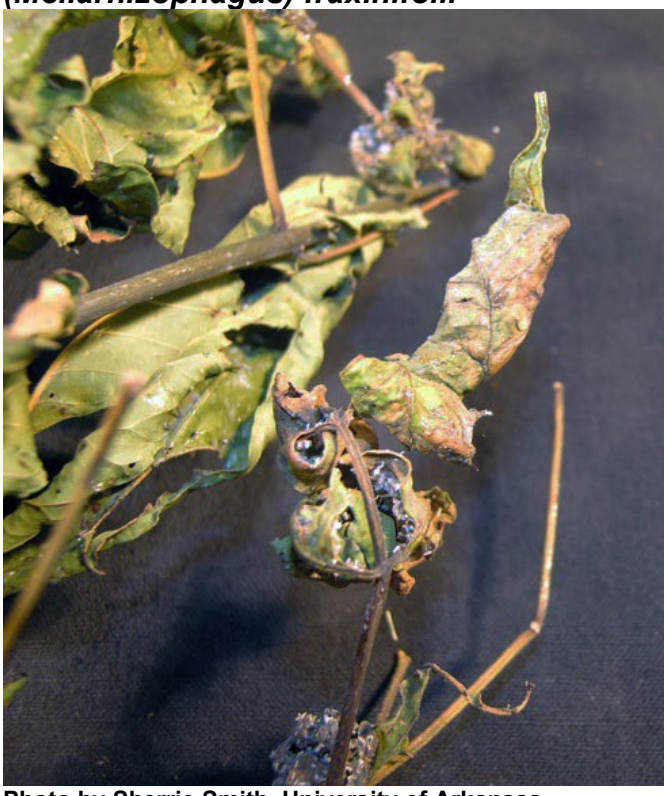

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Ash Leaf Curl Aphid-*Prociphilus* (*Meliarhizophagus*) *fraxinifolii*

Photo by Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood

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

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 16-June 18, 2013

Crape Myrtle Sooty Mold-various fungi

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Plum

Plum Pockets, or Bladder Pockets, or Mock Plums are the common names given to a fungal disease of plums caused by *Taphrina communis*. Leaves, stems, and fruit may be affected. However, the most obvious symptoms are on the fruit. Symptoms appear about 6-8 weeks after bud break. Small fruit become thickened and distorted, growing to as much as ten times their normal size. The centers of infected fruits do not contain pits and are spongy or hollow. The deformed fruit may have a reddish or grayish appearance at first, but eventually turns brown or black and falls prematurely from the tree. Infected leaves and shoots have symptoms like Peach leaf curl symptoms, although generally the leaf symptoms are not as noticeable on plum as they are on peach and nectarine. There are cultivars with resistance to Plum Pockets. Rake up all damaged fruit and all fallen leaves. Apply chlorothalonil, or liquid lime-sulfur, or ferbam, or Bordeaux mixture, or ziram in the fall after leaf fall.

Plum Pockets-*Taphrina communis*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Sherrie Smith

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 16-June 18, 2013

Plum Pockets-*Taphrina communis*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Cherry/Plum

Cherry and plum are both susceptible to a disease known as Black Knot, caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa* (*Dibotryon morbosum*). Black woody galls appear on the stems and branches. Badly infected trees may suffer extensive dieback of girdled limbs and stunting of growth beyond the knots. This can cause major yield loss. Prunes, plums, sweet cherries, and sour cherries are all hosts for Black Knot. In extremely rare cases, Black Knot has been found on peach. The knots begin as small, light brown swellings, generally located at the base of the leaf petiole or on the fruit spur. These appear during the summer and first year after infection. Young knots have an olive-green color, but later become hard, brittle, and black in color. The knots are often asymmetrical, protruding more on one side of the affected branch than the other. Control starts with good sanitation. All visible knots should be pruned out before new growth starts in the spring. Pruning cuts should be made at least 6-8 inches below the lowest part of the knot. Knots on large main branches and trunks may be cut out with a knife or chisel, including an inch of healthy bark around the knot. Avoid the purchase of plants showing knots or abnormal swellings on the twigs and branches. Burn, bury, or otherwise remove all clippings from the property. Mancozeb, Captan, Topsin M, or fungicides containing chlorothalonil are helpful in controlling Black Knot if the cultural controls are also practiced. Apply first spray in the spring just as green tissue begins to appear. Spray again just before and after bloom. Spray at 2-week intervals until new growth stops. Lime-sulfur sprayed during the dormant season is also helpful. Wild cherries and plums within 600 feet of the orchard should be removed, if possible, to prevent spores blowing into the orchard and causing new infections. Some Plum cultivars are resistant to Black Knot. The cultivars Bluefree, Damson, Shropshire, and Stanley are considered highly susceptible. Bradshaw, Early Italian, Fellenburg, Methley, and Milton are moderately susceptible. Formosa, Santa Rose, and Shiro are slightly susceptible; and President is considered highly resistant. In general, Japanese varieties are less susceptible than most American varieties.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Sherrie Smith

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 16-June 18, 2013

Plum Black Knot-*Apiosporina morbosa* (*Dibotryon morbosum*)

Photo by Keri Welch, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Annual Vinca

The most common problem of annual vinca is Phytophthora Stem Canker, caused by *Phytophthora parasitica*. Good soil drainage and adequate air circulation is **extremely important** in vinca plantings. Disease is favored by extended hot, wet weather, overhead irrigation, and superfluous amounts of fertilizer. The first noticeable symptom is yellowing and wilting of the foliage. Stem lesions develop that are somewhat slimy to the touch. *Phytophthora* can spread rapidly through a planting simply from the leaves of an infected plant touching the leaves of a nearby plant. Any wilting plants should be immediately removed from the planting. Overhead watering should be discontinued or limited to absolute necessity. Watering early in the day will allow foliage to dry. Fungicides are not very effective unless applied well in advance of disease development. Aliette fungicide has been found to suppress the disease when applied every 2 weeks as a foliar spray. The use of resistant cultivars is strongly recommended. Cora has proven very resistant. Petunia and verbena are also susceptible to Phytophthora Stem Canker. Ageratum, alyssum, lantana, marigolds, morning glories, moss rose are tolerant of Stem Canker and may be tried in areas with a history of aerial Phytophthora.

Annual Vinca Stem Canker-*Phytophthora parasitica*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Sherrie Smith

Issue 16-June 18, 2013

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."