



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Strawberry

Over four hundred plant species are susceptible to Sclerotinia Rot, also known as White Mold. White Mold is caused by the soil-borne fungal pathogen *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Susceptible plants include cabbage, beans, celery, lettuce, radish, rutabaga, turnip, rhubarb, peas, sunflowers, lentils, alfalfa, chickpeas, coriander, cucumber, melon, squash, soybean, canola, tomato, pepper, potato, and strawberry, among others. Symptoms are stunting, chlorosis, wilting, and death of the affected plant. Infection of the fruit nearly always begins at the calyx end of the fruit. The dense, white, cottony growth of the fungus rapidly involves the whole fruit. Black, flat sclerotia develop in the white mycelial growth. The fruit quickly rots. There are no specific control measures for White Mold in strawberries. The use of chemical fumigants in commercial fields and the immediate removal of plant debris may help to reduce the incidence and spread of this disease. Homeowners should immediately remove affected plants, along with the soil around the plant.

### Strawberry White Mold-*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*



Photo by Terry Kirkpatrick, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### Strawberry White Mold-*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*



Photo by Terry Kirkpatrick, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



## Strawberry White Mold sclerotia- *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*



Photo by Terry Kirkpatrick, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Trees

Slime Flux or Bacterial Wetwood is caused by the bacterium *Enterobacter cloacae*, along with several other bacteria. The bacteria enter through wounds. Once inside the tree, fermentation produces the gas carbon dioxide. The gas produces pressure which eventually forces sap from the tree through cracks in branch crotch unions, pruning wounds, mechanical wounds, and occasionally through unwounded bark. Other bacteria, yeasts, and filamentous fungi colonize the extruded sap, producing a foul or alcoholic odor. Insects are often attracted to the slime. The bark develops a dark, wet appearance as the slim flux runs down the tree. The flux takes on a light gray color when dry. Cross sections of affected wood reveal a tan-green to brown color with the characteristic foul odor. On severely affected

trees, leaf scorch, wilt, and branch death may occur. Slime Flux seldom kills a healthy tree but may eventually kill one weakened over a period of years by adverse growing conditions or another disease. There is no cure for Slime Flux. The fermented sap may ooze for several weeks or months, but generally stops as suddenly as it appeared. Good tree maintenance is the best preventative. Prune trees properly when removing a limb. Do not leave stubs. Keep watered during drought and fertilize per yearly soil test.

## Slime Flux with insects trapped- *Enterobacter cloacae*



Photo by Jason Osborn, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



### Slime Flux-*Enterobacter cloacae*



Photo by Shawn Payne, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### Dried Slime Flux-*Enterobacter cloacae*



Photo by Don Plunkett, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### Azalea

*Cercospora* Leaf Spot of Azalea, caused by *Cercospora handelii*, can cause leaf drop late in the season. Symptoms are brown, irregular to circular lesions on the leaves. The centers of the spots turn gray with age. Infections generally begin in the spring, although symptoms do not appear until fall, or in the following spring on one year old leaves. At least two months pass between infection and



the appearance of the leaf spots. Under wet or humid conditions, masses of greenish-brown spores may be seen in the lesions with the aid of a microscope. Control can be achieved with good sanitation. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed. Fungicides containing thiophanate-methyl, or chlorothalonil, or myclobutanil, or mancozeb may be applied in the spring to protect newly emerging leaves.

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## **Azalea Cercospora Leaf Spot-** *Cercospora handelii*



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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