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

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 8-April 19, 2013

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Dogwood

Dogwood **Spot** Anthracnose, caused by *Elsinoë corni*, is an annoying fungal leaf spot disease of the bracts and leaves of ornamental dogwoods. Spot Anthracnose must not be confused with Dogwood Anthracnose, caused by *Discula destructiva*, as Spot Anthracnose does not kill branches or trees. Spot Anthracnose attacks dogwood blooms and leaves in the spring, particularly during prolonged wet weather. White cultivars appear more susceptible than pink ones. Symptoms are uniform, tiny, circular lesions with purple borders and almost white centers. The center of the lesions falls out later in the season, giving a shot hole effect. In wet seasons, the lesions often become so numerous that leaves or bracts may become puckered and distorted. Severe infection may prevent buds from opening. Spot Anthracnose may be controlled with Daconil or Mancozeb. Spraying should begin when buds begin to open and be repeated when the bracts have fallen, four weeks after bracts have fallen, and again, in late summer, after the flower buds for next season have formed.

Dogwood Spot Anthracnose- *Elsinoë corni*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Dogwood Spot Anthracnose- *Elsinoë corni*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Impatiens

Downy Mildew

We love our impatiens. They bloom continuously and cheerfully from spring until frost, brightening our shady spots in the landscape. Impatiens Downy Mildew, caused by *Plasmopara obducens*, is a destructive foliar

disease that can attack all varieties and intraspecific hybrids of *Impatiens walleriana.* New Guinea impatiens, *Impatiens hawkerii*, is highly tolerant to Downy Mildew and may be used as a replacement where Downy Mildew is a problem. Symptoms begin as light green yellowing or flecking of infected leaves. There may be brownish-gray streaking. Leaves may curl downward along the edges. During cool, moist conditions, a heavy coating of white, cottony growth composed of spores is visible on the undersides of the leaves. The newest plant tissues and young plants are the most susceptible. When plants are infected at the seedling stage, they may be stunted. As the disease progresses, infected leaves and flowers drop from the plant, leaving bare stems with only a few small, yellow leaves attached. The pathogen thrives in wet conditions where it multiplies rapidly. Spores may be carried to nearby plants via wind and rain/irrigation splash. Proper spacing and humidity control aid in control in greenhouse settings. Fungicides applied preventively, along with cultural controls are effective. Heritage, Compass, Aliette, Insignia, and Fenstop are labeled for control of Downy Mildew on ornamentals. Homeowners have fewer chemical remedies, none of which are generally cost effective. Homeowners should immediately remove all parts of infected plants, bag them, and dispose of them off the property. The diseased plants should not be composted. Where beds have been infected with Downy Mildew, practice a 1–2-year rotation with non-host crops. Remember, Impatiens Downy Mildew does not spread to other types of plants in the garden. Shade loving plants that are not susceptible to Downy Mildew are begonia spp., New Guinea impatiens, Coleus, Torenia, Lobelia, shrubs, and trees.

Impatiens Downy Mildew-
Plasmopara obducens

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Impatiens Downy Mildew sporangia and spores-*Plasmopara obducens*

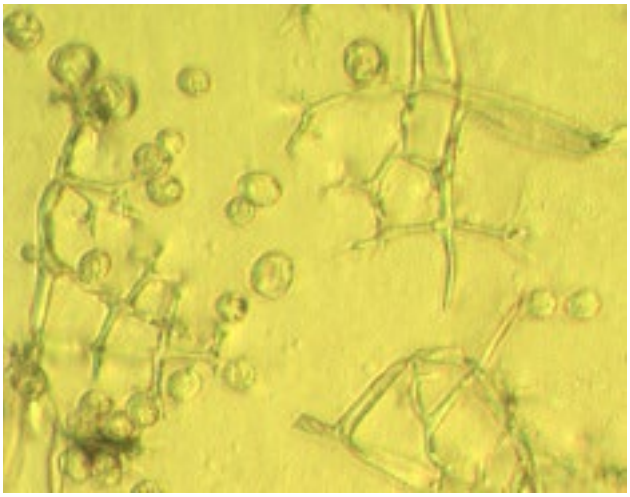

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus

Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) is an insect vectored virus that infects hundreds of species of plants. Common garden and landscape plants that are susceptible include Lettuce, Pepper, Tomato, African violet, Anemone, Aster, Begonia, Calceolaria, Chrysanthemum, Cineraria, Cyclamen, Geranium, Gerbera, Gladiola, Gloxinia, Impatiens, Kalanchoe, Marigold, Nasturtium, Peony, Periwinkle, Petunia, Phlox, Primula, Ranunculus, Snapdragon, Stock, Verbena, and Zinnia, among others. INSV is vectored by the Western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis.* Thrips feed on infected plants as larvae, acquiring the virus which they pass on to new hosts as adult insects. Symptoms are necrotic spots on leaves and flowers, stunting, wilting, and plant death. Plant viruses are not curable. Infected plants should be destroyed. Practice good weed control to limit hosts. Sticky traps may help monitor thrips populations. Many insecticides are labeled for thrips control. Insecticidal soaps and products containing imidacloprid, abamectin, acephate, cyfluthrin, and spinosad, among others, are recommended for thrips control.

Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV)-*Tospoviridae*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV)-*Tospoviridae*

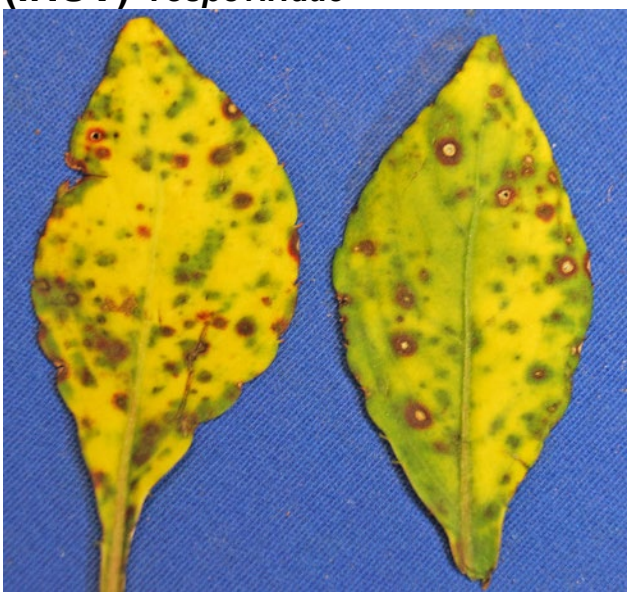

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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