



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Azalea

Azalea Lace Bug

The most common insect damage on Azaleas is that caused by the Azalea Lace Bug, *Stephanitis pyrioides*. Lace Bugs damage the leaves by piercing them with their spear-like stylet and feeding on the contents of the cells. Symptoms are easily mistaken for the damage caused by spider mite feeding. Leaves have a silvery, stippled, or bleached look. Small, black, tarry drops of excrement as well as the Lace Bugs themselves may be found on the undersides of the leaves. Severely infested leaves may turn brown, dry, and fall off. Insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, Neem oil, Orthene, Sevin, and permethrins are effective against Lace Bugs. Bio Advanced Scientific Solutions Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs comes in a 12-month formula that is highly effective as it is a systemic insecticide.

Azalea Lace Bug frass-*Stephanitis pyrioides*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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Azalea Lace Bug damage- *Stephanitis pyrioides*



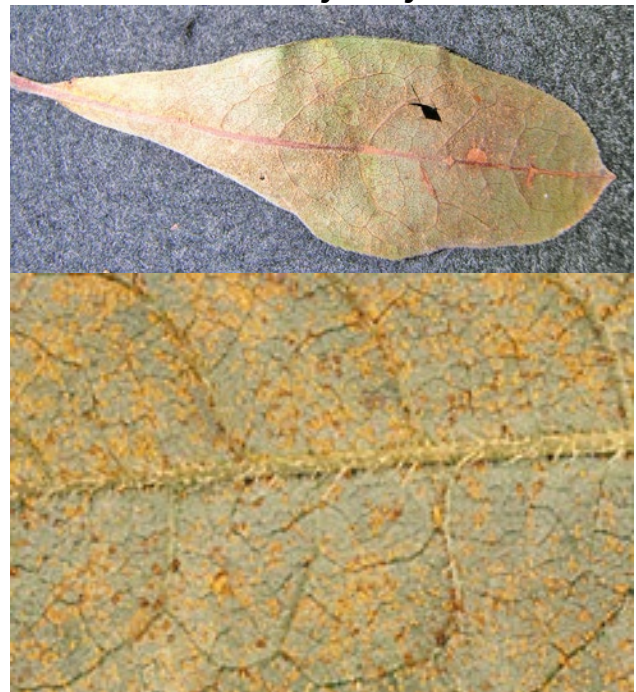
Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Azalea Rust

There are several species of rust that attack Azalea and Rhododendron. Azalea Rust is not usually a serious problem except in very susceptible varieties. Rust can be recognized by brownish to gold colored spore masses erupting from pustules on the undersides of leaves. In severe cases, the number of spores is so high that they will form a rust-colored, powdery residue on fingers when the infected leaves are handled. Defoliation can occur, which weakens the plant as it must replace the

lost leaves. Good sanitation practices, including the removal and destruction of infected leaves, are helpful. An ornamental fungicide for homeowners listed for Azalea such as chlorothalonil provides a good measure of control when applied as a preventative spray.

Azalea Rust-*Chrysomyxa rhododendri*



Photos by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Asparagus

Asparagus Spear Rot, caused by *Phytophthora megasperma*, can be a serious problem in warmer areas of the United States. Symptoms are soft, water-soaked spots on the spears slightly above or below the soil line. The lesions expand as they age, eventually collapsing and shriveling. This collapse may cause the spear to bend like a shepherd's crook. The internal tissues become discolored, turning brown to black as the crown rots. Severely rotted stems become blackened and fibrous. The extent of the damage depends on rainfall and soil drainage. Growers should avoid planting in fields with poor drainage. Ridomil Gold SL and Aliette are labeled for control of *Phytophthora* in asparagus.

Asparagus Spear Rot-*Phytophthora megasperma*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Asparagus Spear Rot-*Phytophthora megasperma*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Oak

There are hundreds of species of gall wasps that attack oak trees, as well as some midge species. For the most part, these tiny wasps cause no lasting harm to the tree, although heavy infestations may cause some twig or branch dieback. Different species attack different parts of the plant: stems, leaves, fruit, or petioles for example. Galls are caused by the reaction between plant hormones and chemicals produced by the gall wasp. The female wasp deposits her eggs into the plant tissue. When the eggs hatch, the larvae



produce chemicals that stimulate abnormal plant tissue growth. Some of the growths are quite spectacular or peculiar. They serve the purpose of providing food and protection for the growing insect. At maturity, the insect bores a hole and exits the gall to continue its life cycle. It is nearly impossible to control large populations of gall wasps. Where practical, galls may be hand removed and destroyed. Small trees may be protected by applications of a systemic insecticide.

Oak Gouty Gall-*Callirhytis quercuspunctata*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Oak Fuzzy Bead Gall-*Callirhytis furva*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Oak Roly-Poly Gall-*Andricus* spp.



Photo by Mike Hamilton, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Oak Midge Galls-*Polystepha pilulae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Oak Jumping Gall-*Neuroterus saltatorius*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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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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