



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media



[Facebook](#)

Maple

Tar Spot, caused by *Rhytisma acerinum*, or *R. punctatum*, is a largely cosmetic fungal leaf spot disease. Many species of maple are susceptible, including Red maple, Silver maple, and Sugar maple, among others. It has also been found on boxelder, willow, and tulip-tree. Leaf spots begin as small, yellowish spots that may enlarge to about 3/4" in diameter as the season progresses. The center of the lesion becomes raised and turns black, resembling a spot of tar on the leaf. Line patterns develop on the tar-like spots that resemble fingerprint patterns. By late summer, heavily infected leaves begin falling prematurely from the tree. Cultural controls are usually all that is required. Rake up all fallen leaves and destroy or remove from the property. Fungicides are generally not considered necessary for control of Tar Spot, as it does not kill the tree. However, on severely affected trees, fungicide treatment may be applied: one treatment done at bud break, a second treatment when the leaves are half expanded, and the final treatment when the leaves are fully expanded. Products containing triadimefon or mancozeb are effective.

Maple Tar Spot-*Rhytisma acerinum*



Photo by Keith Perkins, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

Hazelnut

Bacterial Blight of hazelnut, caused by the bacterium *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *corylina*, can be serious in new orchards. Leaf symptoms begin as small, angular or round, yellowish-green, water-soaked spots that turn reddish brown with age. Buds may be killed, turning brown and failing to leaf out. Twig infections begin as dark-green, water-soaked areas on the bark that turn reddish to purplish brown. If the lesion girdles the stem, twig death occurs. If trunk cankers develop, a grower may lose the tree. During periods of high humidity, exudates containing bacteria ooze from infected tissue. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed from the orchard. Infected twigs and branches should be pruned 8-10 inches below the cankers in late winter and removed from the orchard. Up to three applications of a copper fungicide may be used



per year: the first in late August or early September, the second in the fall when 3/4 of the leaves have fallen, and the third in the spring just before budbreak.

Hazelnut Bacterial Blight- *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *corylina*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Dayflower

Asiatic dayflowers, *Commelina communis*, are annual herbs with stems that are usually decumbent, meaning that they are prostrate at the base but become erect towards the tips. Despite being an invasive species, some people cultivate it for the pretty blue flowers it produces all season. Dayflowers prefer moist, open, semi-shaded growing conditions. Occasionally in areas under overhead irrigation, dayflowers will become infected with *Cercospora commelinicola* which causes a fungal leaf spot disease on these plants. Symptoms include roughly round to oblong purple spots on foliage and stems. The lesions may coalesce to blight

large portions of the leaves. Because dayflower reseeds itself freely, it is easier to pull up diseased plants and dispose of them. However, fungicides may be used if the grower does not want to destroy infected plants.

Dayflower Cercospora Leaf **Spot-***Cercospora commelinicola*



Photo by Jesse Bocksnick, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Dayflower *Cercospora* Leaf Spot-*Cercospora commelinicola*



Photo by Jesse Bocksnick, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

Soybean

Wildfire, caused by the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tabaci*, can cause defoliation of soybeans when environmental conditions are favorable for disease. This bacterium contains a toxin that can cause severe damage in susceptible cultivars. Symptoms include brown, necrotic spots on leaves, nearly always surrounded by a broad, yellow halo. However, sometimes dark-brown to black lesions occur without the yellow halo. The lesions may enlarge and coalesce during wet periods to blight large portions of the leaf. The affected areas become dry and tattered. There is a correlation between Wildfire lesions and Bacterial Pustule, caused by *Xanthomonas*, *axonopodis* pv. *glycines*. A bacterial pustule

can almost always be found in the center of a Wildfire lesion. It appears the pustule acts as a natural infection court for the Wildfire. Cultivars with resistance to Bacterial Pustule and Wildfire should be used. Crop residue should be plowed under, and cultivation avoided when the foliage is wet.

Soybean Wildfire-*Pseudomonas* *syringae* pv. *tabaci*



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.

"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."