



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Pomegranate

The pomegranate is not difficult to grow in warm, dry climates. Below 12°F, injury and death occur. A pomegranate plant makes a long-lived, neat, rounded shrub or small tree that can grow to 20 or 30 ft., but more typically grows to 12 to 16 ft. in height. They do best in full sun with well-drained soils and a pH of 5.5-7.0. A pomegranate plant has few problems when grown in ideal conditions, but occasionally gets Cercospora Leaf and Fruit Spot, caused by *Cercospora punicae*. Symptoms on fruit are small, conspicuous, dark-brown spots that are circular to begin with but become irregular as they enlarge and coalesce. The lesions on leaves are circular to angular, dark reddish brown to nearly black with a diffuse yellow halo, and from 0.5-5mm in diameter. Heavy infections cause the leaves to turn yellow and fall prematurely. Good sanitation helps in control of Cercospora. Fallen leaves should be raked up, and diseased fruit should be removed.

Pomegranate Cercospora Fruit Spot-*Cercospora punicae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

Buckeye

Buckeye Blotch, caused by the fungus *Guignardia aesculi*, is more a cosmetic problem in Horse chestnut and Buckeye trees than a seriously damaging disease. Reddish-brown lesions with bright yellow halos enlarge to blight large portions of the leaves. Leaves look scorched and become dry, brittle, and curled and fall prematurely from the tree. Tiny, pimple-like fruiting bodies of the fungus may be observed with a hand lens in the blighted portions of the leaves. Wet conditions exacerbate the problem, producing multiple cycles of infection. Control begins at budbreak as new leaves are starting to emerge. A



fungicide containing chlorothalonil or Mancozeb may be used, with repeat applications at 10-14-day intervals. Utilize good cultural practices by cleaning up all fallen leaves and avoiding overhead irrigation.

Buckeye Blotch-*Guignardia aesculi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Buckeye Blotch-*Guignardia aesculi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Bald Cypress

The Bald Cypress Gall Midge, *Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa*, is a small fly that lays her eggs on cypress twigs. The eggs hatch, and the larvae begin feeding on the foliage. This induces rapid gall formation that encloses the larvae, protecting them from predators. The galls are oval shaped, initially pink in color changing to white, and eventually brown as the galls age. The overwintering galls are copper brown. They fall from the tree still attached to branchlets late in the season. Gall size ranges from 20mm-3cm (3/4 to 1 3/16 in.). The larger the gall, the more larvae it contains, with large galls containing 15 or more larvae. The larvae



pupate inside the overwintering galls and emerge in the spring as adults. The female mates and lays an average of 120 brightly colored, orange, translucent eggs in clusters of about 15 eggs each during her one-to-two-day adult life span. Insecticides are generally not advised due to the difficulty of timing applications while adults are active. Fallen galls should be collected in autumn or in early spring before the midges become active and start laying eggs. This reduces the number of galls in a new season.

Bald Cypress Gall Midge- *Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa*



Photo by Sherri Sanders, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Grapes and Muscadines

The Grape Berry Moth (GBM), *Paralobesia viteana*, is a native moth that can cause considerable damage to grapes and muscadines. GBMs overwinter as pupae in grayish silken cocoons in fallen leaves. The adults are a small, mottled brown moth. GBM adults emerge in late spring, about the time grapes bloom. The females fly at dusk, laying an average of 20 flat oval eggs singly on grape stems, blossom clusters, or berries. Eggs hatch in 4-8 days depending on temperature. Newly hatched larvae are creamy white with a dark brown head and thoracic shield. Older larvae become greenish brown and eventually purple. The head of the mature larva is light brown with a dark colored thoracic shield. Newly hatched larvae feed on tender new stems, blossom buds, and young berries. At this stage they feed within protective webbings. Later, when berries reach about 3mm (1/8 in.) in diameter, the larvae begin to burrow into them. The second generation of larvae feed only on berries. GBM pheromone traps should be placed into the vineyard interior by May 15. Spray the perimeter vines in May to early June if greater than 1% of berry clusters are damaged by GBMs. Intrepid is a growth regulator that is effective if applied just before hatch, and again 10 days later. See MP144 for additional control information: <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/publications/mp-144.aspx>

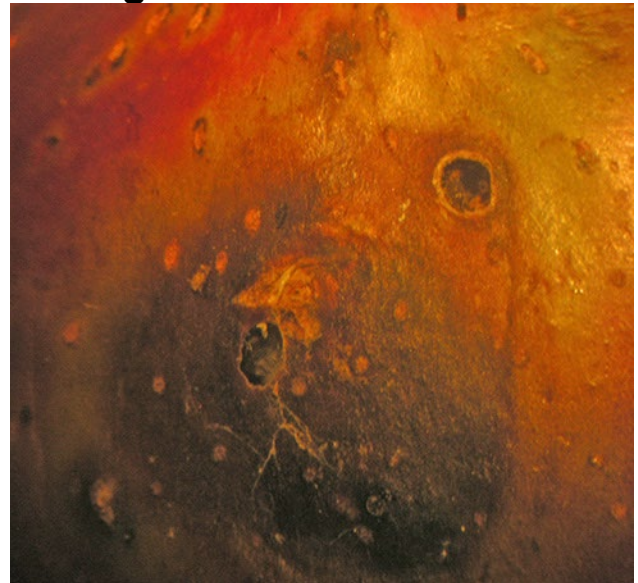


Grape Berry Moth (GBM) larva- *Paralobesia viteana*



**Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension**

Grape Berry Moth (GBM) damage-*Paralobesia viteana*



**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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