



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Sunburn

This is the time of year the clinic receives vegetable seedlings, and young plants with sunburn. These are plants that were started inside and then put out in the wind and sun without being hardened first. The plants need to be exposed to full sun gradually when they have been grown in reduced light areas. We also receive houseplants with this problem. Many people bring tender perennials inside for the winter and put them back outside as the weather warms. The symptom is grayish white areas of the leaves where chloroplasts have been fried.

Tomato Sunburn-Abiotic



Photo by Cindy Ham, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Pepper Sunburn-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Houseplant Sunburn-Abiotic



Photo by Carla Vaught, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Apricot

Peaches, apricots, and nectarines are showing freeze injury to buds. Orchards that suffered late frost damage at bloom are having serious losses. The buds have turned brown and fallen from the tree.

Apricot Freeze Injury-Abiotic



Photo by Mitch Crow University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Cherry Laurel

Bacterial Shot Hole

Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) cultivars that are under environmental stresses may develop several bacterial diseases, especially when planted in shade and watered with overhead irrigation. *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (formerly *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni*) and *Pseudomonas syringae* have both been associated with bacterial leaf spot in plants of the *Prunus* genus. *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* causes gray angular lesions that turn red. Eventually, the centers fall out leading to

the common name "Shot Hole". *Pseudomonas* can cause leaf spots and stem cankers. Bacterial diseases are difficult to control at the best of times. Laurels can be sensitive to copper compounds; so, they should only be used during the dormant season. Mancozeb has been found helpful in controlling Shot Hole disease on laurels and is effective against fungal diseases as well. Laurels should be planted in an area with good drainage where they receive at least 6 hours of full sun.

Russian Laurel Bacterial Shot Hole-*Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Air Conditioner Units

Russian Laurels (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Schipkaensis'), also known as Schip or Skip Laurels, grow well in full sun to part shade. They are a cultivar of Cherry laurel. They prefer a slightly acidic, moist soil but cannot tolerate soggy soils. On heavy wet soils, they are prone to root rots and decline. Plants that have health issues often also have insect problems. The laurel pictured to the right is planted in an unfavorable location and has a heavy incrustation of scale insects. Plantings next to air conditioner units need to address several problems. The fan action is detrimental to foliage. We often see dead areas in a shrub corresponding to fan circulation. Additionally, air conditioner units put out water from condensation that can cause nearby soil to be too wet for laurels. If plants are still small enough to be moved to a new location readily, that should be done during dormancy. Scale insects may be treated with Merit; or Bio Advanced Scientific Solutions Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs; or fine horticultural oil; or insecticidal soaps.

Russian Laurel Scale Infestation-Coccomorpha

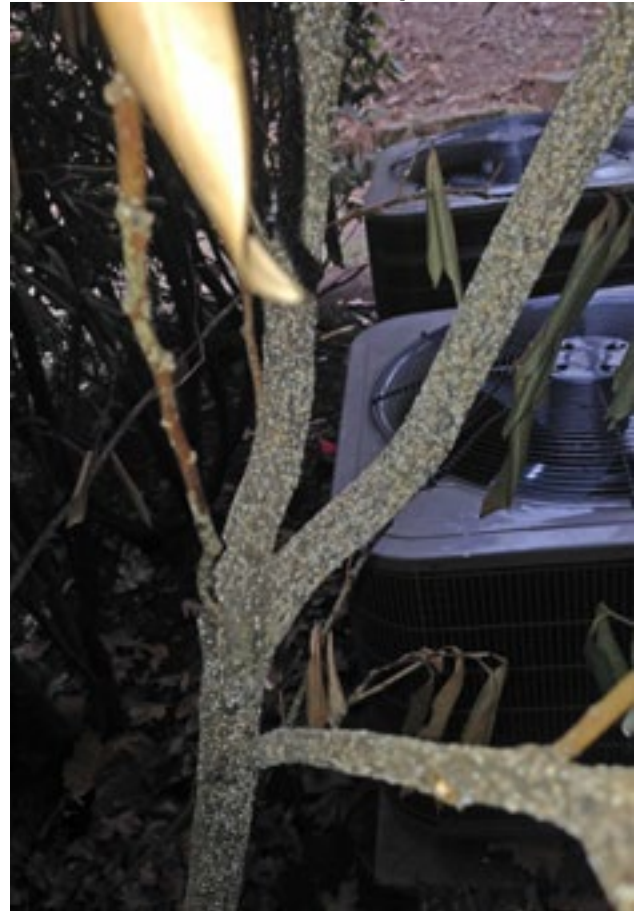


Photo by Scott Hardin, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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