



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media



[Facebook](#)

Turf

Although winter still has a grip on the state, the Plant Health Clinic has started receiving turf samples with patch diseases. The biggest disease issue with Zoysia is Large Patch, caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*. Stolons and basal leaf sheaths develop water soaked black to reddish-brown lesions. Irregular circular patches develop that may be from several feet to more than 25 feet (7.6m) in diameter. Sometimes a smoke-colored or orange halo may be observed early in the morning at the margins of the patch. Diseased shoots are easily detached from their points of attachment. Roots are discolored but not rotted. In the most severely affected turf, entire lawns may be blighted. Large Patch is also a common patch disease of Bermuda, with symptoms occurring earlier in the spring than Zoysia. Typically, symptoms in Zoysia occur two to eight weeks after green up, or in the autumn. Sometimes symptoms slowly disappear during the growing season as surviving tillers start filling in the killed spots. Night irrigation, shade, and excessive amounts of nitrogen increase both severity and incidence of patch diseases. Complete fertilizers with time release nitrogen should be used instead of quick release

nitrogen. Apply 0.5 pound (230g) of nitrogen per thousand square feet approximately three weeks after the grass turns green in late May. No more than two pounds (910g) of nitrogen total should be applied per growing season to Zoysia. A soil test is useful to see where fertility levels are. Good drainage is essential for a healthy lawn. The turf should be de-thatched if thatch accumulates to more than 0.5" (1.3cm) thick. De-thatching should be done while grass is actively growing. Fungicides may be applied once in the spring between March 15 and April 15, and again in the fall between September 20 and October 10. Heritage, Prostar, Eagle, Instrata, and Bayleton are labeled for Large Patch. For Large Patch, soil test for pH and nutrients. Avoid night watering. Homeowners may use products labeled for control of *Rhizoctonia* diseases. Products containing azoxystrobin, or flutolanil, or myclobutanil, or triticonazole, or triadimefon have proven effective when applied per label.

Zoysia Large Patch-*Rhizoctonia solani*



Photo by Michelle Mobley, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



Crape Myrtle

The Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS), *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*, is an imported pest from Asia. It is known to be a pest on crape myrtle and pomegranate in its native range. It was found for the first time in Arkansas in Little Rock in January 2014. At this time, it has been discovered in Pulaski, Garland, and Miller counties in Arkansas. The first sign of infestation commonly noticed by homeowners and landscapers is black Sooty Mold on the trunk and branches. This occurs because scale insects feed on the sap of the plant, excreting excessive amounts of the sugars. The sticky residue called honeydew attracts colonization by Sooty Mold fungi. When the sooty areas are examined closely, the white to gray, felt-like females may be seen on small twigs, branches, and the trunk of the crape myrtle. They are often heavily concentrated near pruning wounds or under the exfoliating bark of the trunk. Dozens of pink eggs are laid under the females which then die. The eggs hatch into pinkish crawlers. After several days the crawlers molt, lose their legs and antennae, settle into one spot, and become permanently stationary. They secrete white threads that become the protective white to gray felt-like covering over their bodies. The males emerge winged and, after finding a female, mates and dies. There may be several generations in Arkansas. As with any heavy infestation of sap-feeding insects, plants become weakened by repeated attacks. Control takes a concerted effort. One recommendation is washing the trunk and limbs within reach with a soft brush and mild solution of dishwashing soap. A winter application of

dormant oil is believed to be helpful. Be sure to apply thoroughly to bark crevices and wounded areas as well as other parts of the plant. Systemic insecticides used as soil drenches applied to the root zone have been found to be effective when applied between May and July. Imidacloprid (Merit® or Bayer Advanced™ Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control), thiamethoxam (Meridian®) and dinotefuran (Greenlight Tree and Shrub Insect Control with Safari) have been shown to give decent control.

Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS)-*Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*

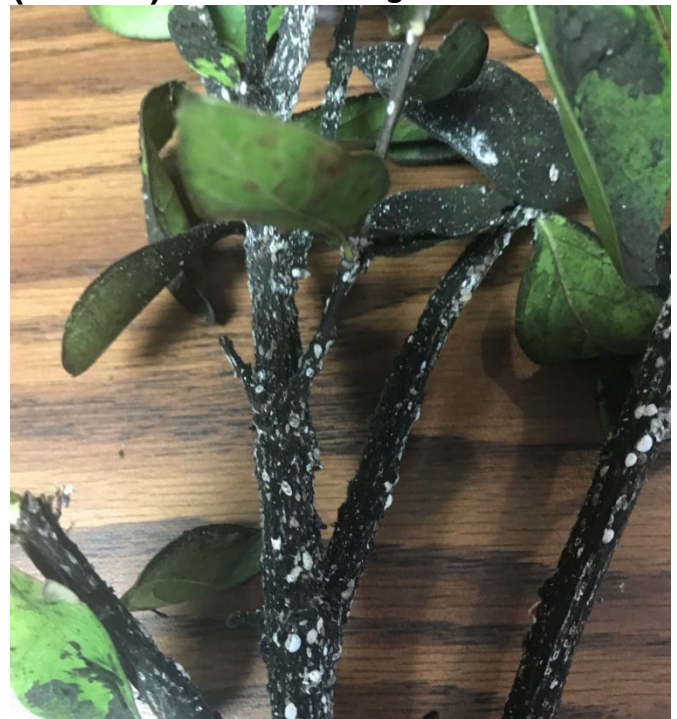


Photo by Angela Berryhill, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS)- *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*



Photo by Tammy Laws, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (CMBS) crawlers-*Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*



Photo by Ricky Corder, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Peach

It is time to treat for Peach Leaf Curl, caused by *Taphrina deformans*, if it was not done in the fall after leaf fall. For treatment to be effective, it must happen after leaf fall and before bud break in the spring. Copper fungicides or a fungicide containing chlorothalonil may be used. Once bud break occurs, it will be too late to treat for the coming season. Symptoms are thickened, blistered-looking areas of the leaves and leaf curling. The blistered areas start as green but change to red. A gray mass of spores is produced during wet spells. New twigs may be thickened and distorted. Fruit, on rare occasions, will also be blistered.

Peach Leaf Curl-*Taphrina deformans*



Photo by Jason Osborn, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Peach Leaf Curl-*Taphrina deformans*



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."