DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System
Sherrie Smith

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Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Cucumber

Anthracnose, caused by *Colletotrichum orbiculare*, and Cucumber Scab, caused by *Cladosporium cucumerinum*, can both be serious diseases on susceptible cultivars. It is nearly impossible to tell the two diseases apart on leaves without the aid of a microscope. Fortunately, treatment is the same for both diseases. All parts of the plant may be infected, including leaves, petioles, stems, and fruit. Leaf lesions begin as yellowish water-soaked spots that turn brown to black. The spots enlarge and dry out. The centers of older lesions fall out, leaving a shot hole effect. Fruit infected with Anthracnose have sunken, circular, black spots of different sizes. Fruit infected with Scab have superficial scabby lesions. Crop rotation and destruction of old vines go a long way toward controlling this problem. Fungicide applications of Quadris Top, or Quadris 2.08Fl, or Cabrio 20EC, or Quadris Opti, or Bravo Ultrex, or Bravo WeatherStik, or Equus 720, or Mancozeb 80W, or Maneb 80W, or Pristine may be used by commercial growers. Homeowners may use products containing chlorothalonil, mancozeb, or Maneb. Choose resistant cultivars.

Cucumber Anthracnose-*Colletotrichum orbiculare*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Cucumber Scab-*Cladosporium cucumerinum*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Cucumber Scab-*Cladosporium cucumerinum*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Grape

During flowering, grapevines need dry conditions and sufficient sunshine for good pollination. Coulure is the term used when grapes fail to develop after flowering. Coulure is triggered by periods of cold, cloudy, rainy weather or very high, out-of-season temperatures. In the case of Arkansas this season, it has been prolonged wet cool weather that is causing problems with Coulure in some vineyards. Flowers remain closed and are not fertilized. The unfertilized flower clusters fail to develop and fall off. Coulure can also cause irregular bunches of grapes where some of the flowers in the cluster are fertilized and others are not. Yield loss in an affected vineyard can be substantial. Grape varieties with high tendency to Coulure are Grenache, Malbec, Merlot, and Muscat Ottonel. Other reasons for Coulure may be vineyard conditions and practices, such as pruning too early or too severely, excessively fertile soils or overuse of fertilizers, and improper selection of rootstocks or clones.

Grape Coulure-Abiotic

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Grape Coulure-Abiotic

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Squash

Squash Bugs, *Anasa tristis*, are possibly the most aggravating insect pest in vegetable gardens. Squash Bugs feed on plant foliage using specialized mouthparts to pierce the foliage and suck plant sap. Symptoms of their feeding are brown necrotic areas on the leaves, stems, and fruit. Large numbers cause plants to wilt and sometimes die. They attack cucurbit crops, preferring pumpkin and squash. Adults overwinter in debris, such as leaves, rocks, wood, and grasses. In the spring, they fly to a host plant to mate and lay eggs. Their eggs are small, reddish-brown ovals laid in clusters on the underside of the leaves. The nymphs hatch and immediately start feeding on the plant. It takes 4-6 weeks for them to mature. Populations can skyrocket almost overnight. Sanitation is very important in Squash Bug control. In the fall, all garden debris and dead leaves should be cleaned up. Scout for the egg clusters early and squash them when found. Place a flat board in the garden next to plants. At night, the Squash Bugs will congregate underneath it and can be easily killed. Insecticides are most effective if applied while nymphs are small. Products containing bifenthrin (Ortho), carbaryl (Sevin), or cyfluthrin (Bayer) are labeled for control. Commercial growers may use Brigade, or Thionex, or Asana XL.

Squash Bug eggs-*Anasa tristis*

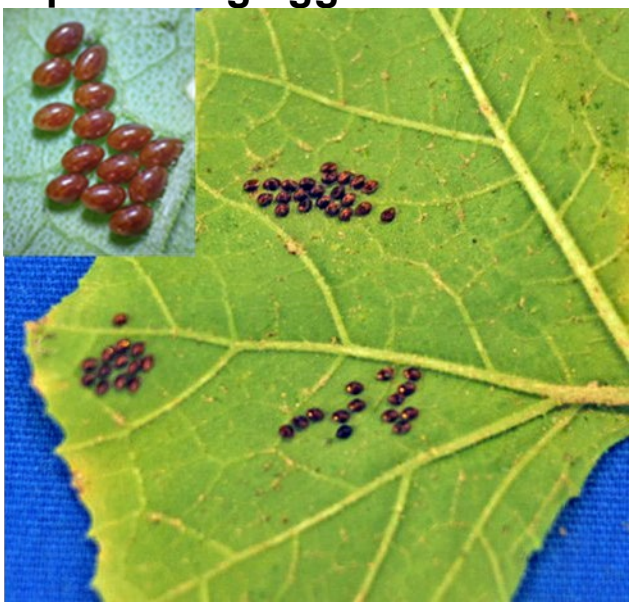

Photo by Ricky Corder, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Squash Bug adult-*Anasa tristis*

Photo by Whitney Cranshaw, Bugwood.org

Squash Bug damage-*Anasa tristis*

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.

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