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

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 22-July 27, 2015

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Peach and Nectarine

Peach Anthracnose causes dramatic fruit rot on nectarines, peaches, plums, and sour cherries. Symptoms on fruit are circular, sunken, tan to brown, necrotic spots with concentric rings. Ripe fruit is the most susceptible. Lesions are large and firm to the touch. Masses of orange-colored spores occur in the center of the lesions. Two species of Colletotrichum, *Colletotrichum acutatum* and *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, have been found to cause Peach Anthracnose. Warm, wet weather favors disease development. Spores are primarily disseminated by rain and wind. Captan is the fungicide of choice for control of Peach Anthracnose. Captan can be used in combination with Abound, Quadris Top, Pristine, or Adament. Do not allow Abound to drift onto any nearby apple trees. The orchard floor and nearby environs should be kept free of weeds and wild *Prunus* species.

Peach Anthracnose-*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Peach Anthracnose-*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*

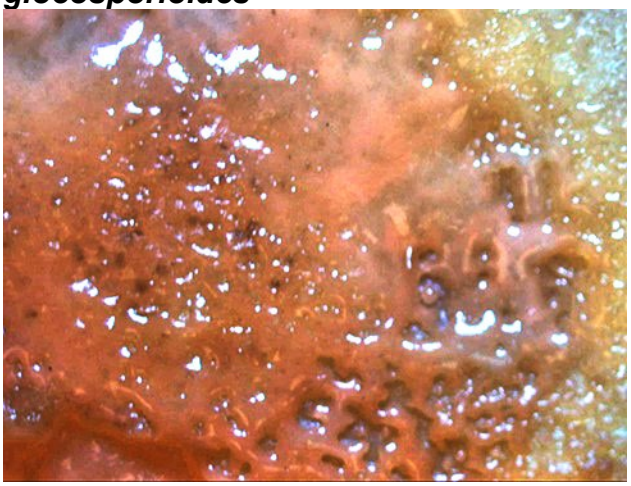

Photo by Ricky Corder, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Maple

Occasionally the Plant Health Clinic receives a sample of maple leaves with the complaint of diseased leaves. However, upon closer inspection, the leaf spots have a corresponding Scale Insect on the underside of the leaf. Plants with heavy Scale infestations are often stressed plants. Any adverse conditions, such as too much or too little water, improper site, herbicide exposure, or nutritional issues, make them more attractive to insects. Such plants should be carefully evaluated by the homeowner as to proper site and soil conditions. A soil sample should be sent to the soil lab to check pH and nutrients. Watering schedule and drainage issues should be addressed. Scale Insects may be controlled with fine oils, insecticidal soaps, or insecticides such as Bayer Advanced Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs.

Maple Scale (leaf underside)-
Coccomorpha spp.

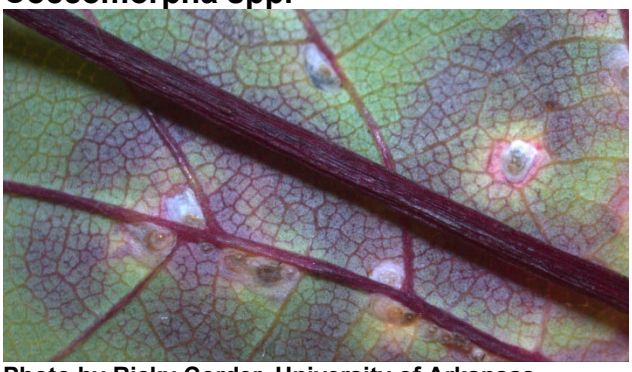

Photo by Ricky Corder, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Maple Scale (leaf top)-
Coccomorpha spp.

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Crape Myrtle

Cercospora Leaf Spot of crape myrtle, caused by *Pseudocercospora lythracearum*, can completely defoliate susceptible cultivars by late summer. Symptoms begin as circular to irregular brown spots on the leaves. Leaves with a lot of the spots may become distorted or twisted. Diseased leaves may turn yellow to bright red and then fall prematurely. Cercospora Leaf Spot begins on the lower branches and spreads upwards through the canopy. In severe cases, only the newest leaves at the tips of the branches remain on the

plant. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed. Overhead irrigation should be avoided. Fungicides may be applied as soon as spots are noticed on the lowest branches. Repeat applications at 1-2-week intervals depending on product label. Homeowners may use Spectracide Immunox; or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide; or Green Light System Systemic Fungicide; or BioAdvanced Garden-Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, Shrubs; or Green Light Fung-Away Fungicide. These products may be rotated with a fungicide containing chlorothalonil, such as Ortho Max Garden Disease Control, or Fertilome Liquid Fungicide, or Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide. Planting resistance cultivars can help reduce dependence on fungicides to protect the plants. Resistant cultivars of the common *Lagerstroemia indica* species of crape myrtle include 'Catawba,' 'Cherokee,' 'Glendora White,' and 'Potomac'. The Japanese crape myrtle, *L. fauriei*, cultivar 'Fantasy' is resistant. Hybrid (*L. indica* x *fauriei*) crape myrtles that are resistant include 'Apalachee,' 'Basham's Party Pink,' 'Caddo,' 'Natchez,' 'Sarah's Favorite,' 'Tonto,' 'Tuskegee,' 'Tuscarora,' and 'Velma's Royal Delight.' All the listed cultivars are resistant to powdery mildew as well.

Crape Myrtle Cercospora Leaf Spot-*Pseudocercospora lythracearum*

Photos by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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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