



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media



[Facebook](#)

### Rosemary

Rosemary is a favorite herb in the garden. It is grown for culinary use and for its fragrance and attractive foliage. The three rules for growing healthy rosemary are: always provide excellent drainage, full sun, and good air circulation. Rosemary cannot endure prolonged soggy soil conditions and will rapidly develop root rot. Poor circulation leaves the plants prone to powdery mildew. These are the most common problems we see in rosemary samples that arrive at the Plant Health Clinic.

A rarer problem is the proliferation of Aerial Roots up in the canopy of the plant. This occurs either with prolonged levels of high humidity and poor air circulation, or with prolonged waterlogged soils. In the case of waterlogged soil, the plant will most certainly die. If the Aerial Roots are due to high humidity, they will wither when growing conditions get back to normal. Aerial Roots in themselves will not harm the plant.

### Rosemary Aerial Roots-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
Cooperative Extension

### Rosemary Aerial Roots-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
Cooperative Extension



## English Ivy

English Ivy, *Hedera helix*, is a perennial evergreen vine popular throughout the United States. Although common English ivy has dark green foliage, some varieties have attractive gold or variegated foliage. Ivy grows well in part to full shade and tolerates poor soils and air pollution. It is used mostly as a shade groundcover, growing from 6-8 inches (15-20cm) high and forming a dense mat. When offered support such as a tree or wall, it will climb to as much as 80 ft (24m). It climbs by using root-like structures on the stems called holdfasts or feet. It doesn't climb by twining as do honeysuckles and clematis. Contrary to popular belief, ivy doesn't kill large trees that it uses as a support. However, it can eventually damage brick and stucco walls. Ivy is very hardy and easy care. Generally, it only has a few disease problems. Perhaps the most common disease problem of English ivy is Bacterial Leaf Spot, caused by *Xanthomonas hortorum* pv. *hederae*. This bacterial disease is most severe in nurseries and landscapes with high humidity. Lesions appear on the lower surfaces of leaves as water-soaked spots that turn reddish brown to black colored, usually with a bright yellow halo. Sometimes orange-red bacterial oozing from the lesions may be observed during prolonged moist conditions. The spots can expand to large lesions 2-10mm (5/64-25/64") in diameter. Older lesions will dry and crack during dry periods. Infected stems and petioles will get elongated dark lesions. When a stem is girdled, wilting occurs. Bacterial infections are spread by overhead irrigation, rain splash, and contaminated tools. Kocide is the

chemical treatment of choice but must be used in conjunction with minimizing overhead irrigation and the use of resistant cultivars.

## English Ivy Bacterial Spot- *Xanthomonas hortorum* pv. *hederae*



Photo by Allen Bates, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Peony

Many parts of Arkansas have seen large amounts of rain in the last several months. As a result, Peonies planted on heavy clay soils have started coming into the clinic with Phytophthora Root Rot and Stem Blight, caused by *Phytophthora cactorum*. Symptoms begin as small water-soaked spots on emerging shoots, stems, petioles, buds, or





leaves. The spots become dark-brown to black, leathery, elongated lesions. A wet rot occurs when crowns and roots are infected, causing the collapse and death of the entire plant. Once symptoms are noticed, chemical treatments are usually not effective. All parts of the infected plant and the immediate soil should be removed from the planting. Peonies should not be replanted in that location until drainage issues are resolved and infested soil has been replaced. Peonies have few serious disease problems when planted in a sunny location in good garden soil with adequate drainage. They require at least six hours of direct sun and prefer a pH of 6.5-7.0. When offered ideal conditions, peonies can live for decades, some reaching one hundred years.

### **Peony Phytophthora Blight- *Phytophthora cactorum***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Peony Phytophthora Blight- *Phytophthora cactorum***



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."