



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Pine

Pitch Canker is a serious fungal disease of pines in the southeastern United States. Susceptible varieties include Slash pine, Longleaf, and Loblolly, among others. The causal agent is the fungus *Fusarium circinatum*, formerly known as *Fusarium subglutinans* f. sp. *pini*. This is a seed-borne pathogen that may also be transmitted by insects, especially bark beetles and beetles which feed in cones. Crown dieback, dying needles, stunted growth, and deformed crowns and shoots, are symptoms. Large exudates of pitch around cankers on a branch or trunk are common and diagnostic of Pitch Canker. Resin-soaked wood is exposed if the tree's bark around the infected area is removed. Each canker or lesion is a separate and distinct infection. If there are only a few cankers present, Pitch Canker may be controlled by pruning out the cankered branches. There are no chemical controls. Avoid wounding trees, especially from July to November. Be careful when mowing or weed eating around the tree. Reduce stress by watering during drought periods. Many infected trees will recover, but trees with large trunk cankers may die. Dying and dead trees should

be removed from the landscape to protect nearby healthy trees.

Pine Pitch Canker-*Fusarium circinatum*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Pine Pitch Canker-*Fusarium circinatum*



Photo by Mike McClintock, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Redbud

One of the first harbingers of spring is the Eastern redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, a prized native ornamental tree. Its native range is from eastern North America to southern Ontario, Canada, south to northern Florida. Redbuds are small trees, growing 20-30 feet (6-9m) tall with a 25-35 foot (7.6-10.7m) spread. Although the heart-shaped leaves are attractive, they are loved primarily for the thousands of rosy-pink flowers they produce in the spring. A common leaf disease found on Arkansas redbuds is Bacterial Leaf Spot, caused by a species of *Pseudomonas*. Bacterial Leaf Spot is most severe during cool, wet springs. Trees grown in shade with poor air circulation are most susceptible. The main symptom is small, oval to irregular spots with a water-soaked or yellow halo on leaves. Severe infections can cause premature leaf drop. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed from the planting area.

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Copper fungicides applied during the dormant season and at bud break in the spring help control Bacterial Leaf Spot.

Redbud Bacterial Leaf Spot-*Pseudomonas* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Euonymus

Euonymus is one of the most widely used evergreen plants found in both commercial and home landscapes. Euonymus Scale, *Unaspis euonymi*, is the most common and maddening insect problem we see on Euonymus. This species of Scale can also attack bittersweet, camellia, celastrus, hibiscus, holly, ivy, ligustrum, and pachysandra. Scale insects



injure plants by using their piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on sap. Sooty Mold fungi often colonize leaves that have become coated with the excess amounts of sugary sap that the insects secrete. Sooty Mold fungi do not directly injure the plants but may reduce their ability to photosynthesize. Plants heavily infested with Scale grow slowly and become chlorotic and stunted. Severe infestations may cause branch dieback and plant death. Male *Euonymus* Scale insects are easily observed with their elongated white bodies. Females are less noticeable, although larger (over 1/16 inch [1.6mm] long), brown, and pear-shaped. In severe infestations, leaves and stems may be heavily encrusted. There are several generations a year. Crawlers are active in May, June, and July. Plants in shady locations with poor air circulation are more at risk than those in open sunny locations. Over-fertilization and poor watering practices, either too much or too little, promote Scale infestations. Heavily infested plants should be pruned back, and new growth should be protected with insecticide treatments. Dormant oils applied during the winter months help reduce over-wintering populations. Fine horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps are options for summer control. Bio Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control (imidacloprid) is a systemic insecticide that gives good results, or Bio Advanced Garden Power Force Multi-Insect Killer (cyfluthrin). Spreading euonymus, (*Euonymus kiautschovicus*), Dwarf winged euonymus (*Euonymus alatus* 'Compactus'), and Winter creeper euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*), are more resistant to heavy attacks by this pest.

Euonymus Scale-*Unaspis euonymi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Euonymus Scale-*Unaspis euonymi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Euonymus Scale-*Unaspis euonymi*



**Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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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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