Sherrie Smith

Issue 24-August 10, 2015

# Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

**Follow us on social media**

Facebook

## Sweet Potato

Sweet Potato Feathery Mottle Virus (SPFMV) can cause considerable yield reduction wherever sweet potato is grown. In comparison to susceptible cultivars, virus-free sweet potato plants yield from 20% to over 100% more than infected plants. Symptoms on the foliage are irregular chlorotic or purple feathering along the veins and faint to distinct chlorotic spots with or without a purple halo on leaf surfaces. Leaf symptoms may be entirely absent as they are dependent on cultivar susceptibility, virus strain, and stress. Likewise, root symptoms may be absent, or the roots may exhibit “russet crack” or “internal cork”. SPFMV is vectored by aphids. Aphid control is not considered economical in most cases. Control consists of the use of resistant cultivars and proper sanitation. Viruses are not curable.

## Sweet Potato Feather Mottle Virus (SPFMV)-*Potyviridae*

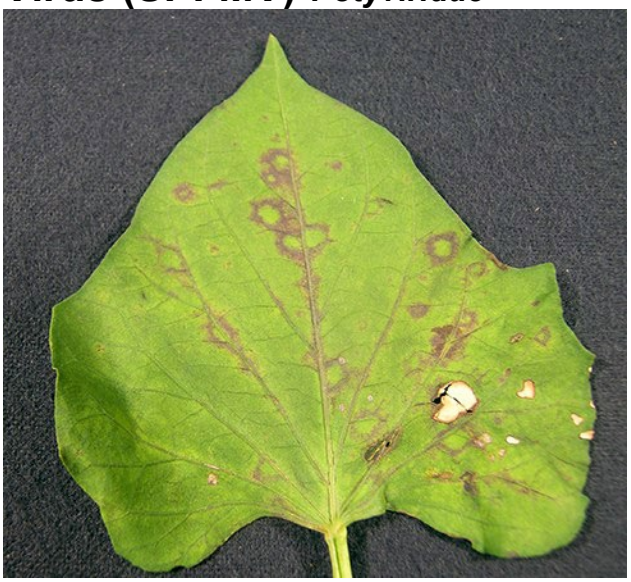

**Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension**

## Sweet Potato Feather Mottle Virus (SPFMV) russet crack-*Potyviridae*

**Photo by J. W. Moyer, APS Image Library**

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

Sherrie Smith

Issue 24-August 10, 2015

## Sweet Potato Feather Mottle Virus (SPFMV) internal cork-Potyviridae

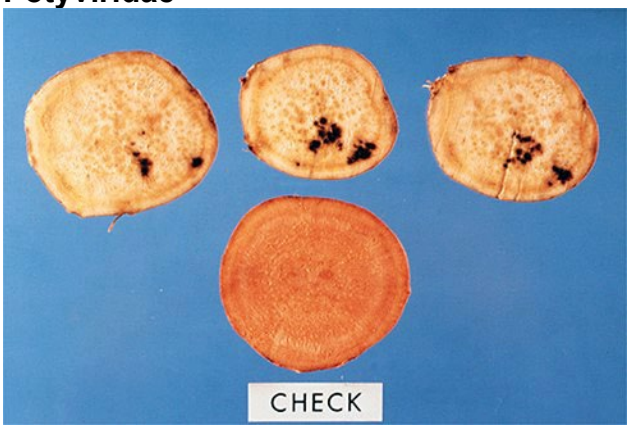


**Photo by J. W. Moyer, APS Image Library**

## Fiddle-Leaf Fig

Fiddle-leaf figs, *Ficus lyrata,* are easy houseplants to grow. This member of the fig family can grow up to 12 feet (3.7m) in height and 6 feet (1.8m) wide. They prefer moderate to bright light and moderate amounts of water. Bacterial Leaf Spot, caused by *Xanthomonas campestris*, typically causes tan-brown, dry looking lesions with irregularly shaped margins and a darker reddish border. The lesions tend to become tattered as the lesions age. Control measures are based largely on sanitation, avoidance of leaf wetness, avoidance of high rates of nitrogen, and the use of bactericides. Streptomycin sulfate (Agri-strep), Kocide, and Mancozeb have some efficacy against bacterial diseases when combined with good cultural methods. Both anthracnose leaf spot and the dead margins caused by lack of water can cause similar looking lesions.

## Fiddle-Leaf Fig Bacterial Leaf Spot-*Xanthomonas campestris pv. campestris*

**Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension**

## Rose

Cercospora Leaf Spot of roses can be very damaging on susceptible cultivars. *Cercospora puderi* and *Cercospora rosicola* are the species of *Cercospora* that cause leaf blights of rose. Symptoms of Cercospora Leaf Spot include tiny, brown to purple, circular leaf spots on the leaf surface. The centers of the spots gradually turn tan to gray. Like Black

spot disease, heavily infected leaves may turn yellow and fall prematurely. It is important to maintain good growing conditions for roses. They should receive at least six hours of direct sun daily (morning is best) in a site that allows good healthy air movement around each bush. A pH of 6.0-6.8 is ideal for roses. Roses require 2 inches (50mm) of water a week for best bloom. However, overhead irrigation promotes fungal diseases such as Cercospora Leaf Spot and Black spot of roses; so, overhead irrigation should be avoided. Applications of fungicides such as Compass, Daconil, Eagle, and Heritage give excellent control when applied every 7-10 days. Homeowners may use BioAdvanced Garden-Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, and Shrubs; or Daconil; or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide; among others.

## Rose Cercospora Leaf Spot-
***Cercospora rosicola***

**Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension**

## Rose Cercospora Leaf Spot-
***Cercospora rosicola***

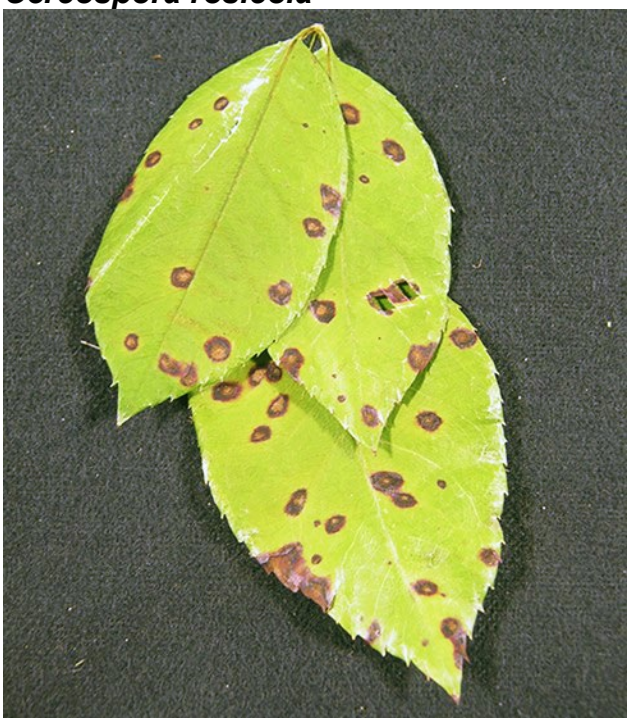

**Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension**

## Apple

Flyspeck, caused by *Schizothyrium pomi*, and Sooty Blotch, caused by *Gloeodes pomigena*, are two of the most common fungal diseases found on apple. These two diseases are commonly both found together on fruit. The fungi causing these diseases grow superficially on the surface of the apple, causing the fruit to be unsightly and unmarketable. Most of the apple crop in the southeastern United States would be affected each year if not for the use of protective fungicides. Symptoms of Flyspeck are groups of a few to 50 or more

shiny black, superficial pseudothecia on the surface of the fruit. The colonies are usually 1-3cm (3/64-1/8″) in diameter or larger, and round to irregular in shape. Sooty Blotch appears as colonies of olive green on mature fruit. The colonies may be discrete and circular to large blotches with diffuse margins which are sooty in appearance. Fungicide sprays should be applied at 10-14-day intervals beginning at green tip in the spring to provide the best protection. Adament, Captan, Flint, Pristine, Sovran, and Topsin M are labeled for control. Cleanup of fallen fruit and leaves, along with proper pruning, is also helpful.

## Apple Flyspeck and Sooty Blotch complex-*Schizothyrium pomi* and *Gloeodes pomigena*

**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."