Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 10-May 9, 2016

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media

Facebook

Cypress

Cypress samples are showing up at the lab with the inevitable Seiridium Canker. This is the most devastating disease of Leyland cypresses in the Mid-South. Other cypress species such as Arizona cypress, Mediterranean cypress, and Monterey cypress are also susceptible. Plants of any age may be affected. The first noticeable symptom of the disease is yellowing of the foliage on a few twigs, followed by browning. Death of individual twigs and branches is due to the formation of cankers on them. Lens shaped cankers are gray colored but often obscured by resinous sap weeping from the lesion. Small black fruiting bodies appear on the bark. The spores are spread by rain, tools, and insects. The fungus also can be spread from tree to tree on pruning tools. Long distance spread can occur through the transport of infected cuttings or plants. Once the trunk is girdled by cankers, death comes quickly as the cankers interfere with water flow. No chemicals are labeled for Seiridium Canker. The best defense is sanitation. Prune out branch and twig cankers. Pruning tools should be dipped in rubbing alcohol or a 10% bleach solution (one cup bleach to nine cups water) between cuts. If the main trunk has cankers, remove the entire tree. Dead trees and clippings need to be removed from the property. Seiridium Canker tends to be associated with trees suffering from winter damage, drought, or other environmental stresses. Drought plays a large part in the severity of cypress canker. Studies have shown that the disease progresses 3 times faster during drought episodes. Thoroughly soak the soil every 5-7 days during drought. Avoid sprinkler watering. Leyland hedges fare worse with Seiridium because of poor air circulation. A lone specimen tree is not as prone to the disease. Arborvitae, Bald cypress, Chamaecyparis, Cryptomeria, and Junipers are among others also susceptible to Seiridium Canker.

Leyland Cypress Canker-*Seiridium cardinale*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 10-May 9, 2016

Arizona Cypress Canker-*Seiridium unicorne*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Lilac

Lilacs are about done blooming in most parts of the state. For the most part, lilacs are very easy to grow. They perform best when planted in full sun in well-drained but moist soil. One of the major problems we see with lilac is Bacterial Blight, caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*. Bacterial Blight is often associated with plants that have been stressed by drought, improper fertilization, poor site choices, and/or have been wounded. The white flowered cultivars seem particularly susceptible, although all varieties can get the disease. Symptoms begin as olive-green water-soaked spots that become brown to black water-soaked areas on leaves and stems. Blackened growing tips wilt and often form shepherds' crooks that resemble fire blight. Diseased plant parts should be immediately removed and destroyed. Prune only when the weather is dry. Dip pruners in a 10% bleach solution between cuts. Copper fungicides applied at bud break in the spring are thought to reduce disease incidence. Spray three times at 7–10-day intervals in the spring as leaves are unfolding. Spray again once in the fall after leaves fall.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

Issue 10-May 9, 2016

Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

Lilac Bacterial Blight-shepherd's crook-*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*

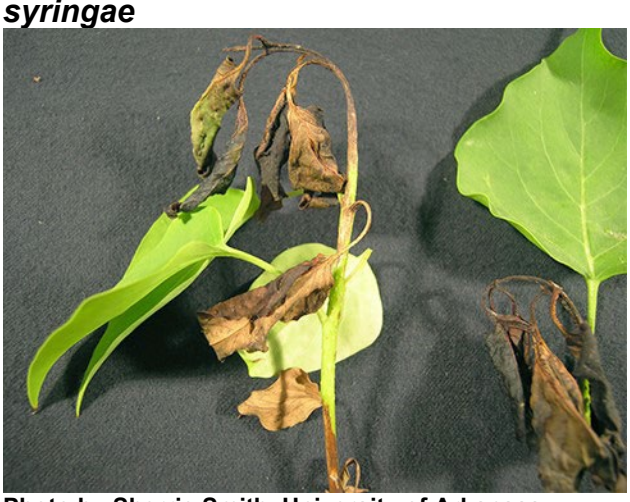

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Blueberry

Blueberry growers should be scouting for Mummy Berry at this time. Mummy Berry is a fungal disease that can cause severe crop losses depending on environmental conditions, cultivar susceptibility, and amount of inoculum present. The causal agent is *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*. Mummy Berry damage is caused by the blighting of flowers, leaves, and twigs, resulting in fruit losses. The first symptom is wilting of developing leaves and shoots in the spring, followed within 24 hours by browning of the upper side of bent shoots, midribs, and lateral veins of leaves. Infected shoots, leaves, and flowers are killed within 3 days of discoloration appearing. Dead tissue eventually drops off the plant. Plants are then free of symptoms until berries start to ripen. Berries that are infected become cream to salmon pink, then tan or whitish gray. The mummified berries shrivel and harden, and then drop to the ground. These mummies are called pseudosclerotia. They germinate to form apothecia which resemble tiny mushrooms. The apothecia produce the ascospores that infect new tissue in the spring. Conidiophores and conidia are produced on the tissue infected by ascospores and cause secondary infections of berries. Control of Mummy Berry needs to be a combination of good cultural practices and fungicide treatments. In the fall, before leaf drop, shallowly cultivate to bury mummies. In early spring around budbreak, destroy developing apothecia by raking or cultivating soil. Some growers pile soil from between the rows at the base of the bushes and between the bushes to bury the mummies. They rake soil back into the rows later in spring after apothecia are gone. Practice good weed control and plant tolerant cultivars. Lime sulfur applied during the dormant season helps control Mummy Berry. Abound, Cabrio, Captan, Captevate, Indar, Pristine, Switch, and Ziram are labeled for Mummy Berry control during the growing season. Applications should begin at green tip and pink bud stage. Read labels for complete directions.

Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

Issue 10-May 9, 2016

Blueberry Mummy Berry-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

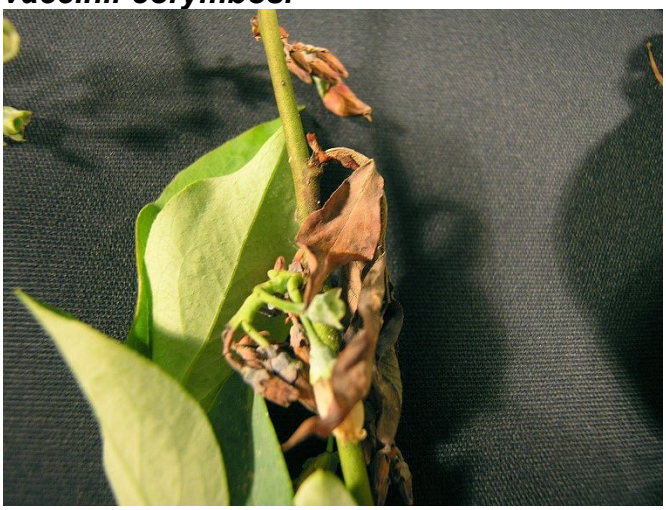

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Blueberry Mummy Berry conidia-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Blueberry Mummy Berry-*Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*

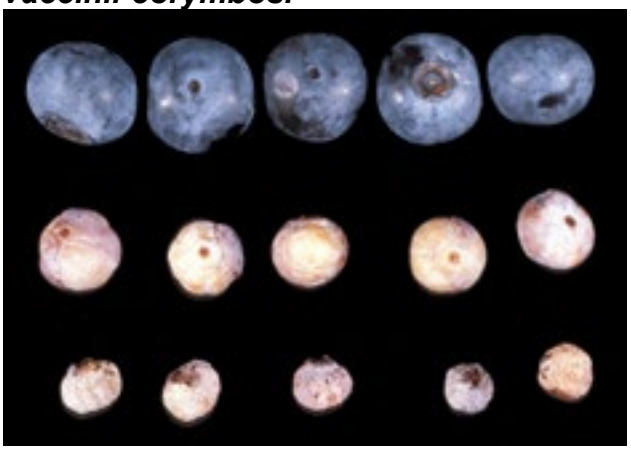

Photo by University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

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."