DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
Issue 22-July 18, 2016

Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media

Facebook

Blackberry

Redberry is a condition where blackberry fruit infested with Redberry Mites, *Acalitus essigi*, do not develop normally colored drupelets. The signs can be dramatic, with affected drupelets remaining hard with a green or bright red color while the rest of the drupelets on an affected berry ripen normally. Crop losses of more than 50% have been recorded. The damage results from a toxin injected by the mites while feeding. Redberry Mites belong to the Eriophyidae mite family. They are tiny, microscopic carrot-shaped mites with two pairs of legs. Traditionally, applications of sulfur or horticultural oils have been used for control. Oils cause less damage than sulfur. Apply horticultural oil after green fruit or first pink fruit stage in four consecutive applications spaced 2 or 3 weeks apart. For blackberry varieties that retain a leaf canopy through the winter, begin Sulforix applications at bud break and continue at 3-week intervals up to 12 days before the start of harvest. For blackberry varieties that naturally defoliate over the winter, apply lime sulfur before buds break dormancy.

Blackberry Redberry Mite damage-*Acalitus essigi*

Photo by Sherri Sanders, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Blackberry Redberry Mite - *Acalitus essigi*

Photo by Ricky Corder, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

Issue 22-July 18, 2016

Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

Willow

Despite being relatively short lived for a tree and somewhat messy with dropped twigs and leaves, Willow species remain popular in many landscapes. The Weeping willow is grown for its majestic size and form, while the Corkscrew willow is planted for the winter interest its twisted limbs provide. Willow Blight is a catch-all term used to describe common willow diseases that often occur singly or together on a tree. Rapid branch dieback, blackened stems, and blighting of shoots and leaves are symptoms of three diseases often found together on willow. The diseases are Black Stem Canker caused by *Glomerella miyabeana*, Willow Scab caused by *Venturia saliciperda*, and Leaf Spot caused by *Pseudocercospora salicina*. Willow Scab attacks current year leaves in the spring, rapidly killing them. Olive-green velvety spore masses develop along the veins and in spots on the underside of leaves. Small shoots are killed when the fungus grows into the petioles. Black Canker usually infects leaves and twigs later in the season than Scab. The cankers most often appear at the nodes underlying petioles. Leaf blades that become infected turn black near the base. Leaves will shrivel and drop prematurely. Another common leaf disease of willows is Pseudocercospora Leaf Spot. Lesions caused are 0.5-5 mm (1/64-13/64") in diameter and irregular in shape, with brown centers and purple margins. As the disease progresses and the lesions become more numerous, the leaves turn yellow and fall from the tree. In severe cases, dieback of the branches can occur. Control consists of pruning out diseased twigs, removing fallen twigs and leaves, and avoiding overhead irrigation to prevent splashing spores onto uninfected tissue. Avoiding stress by keeping willows properly watered is important in reducing the incidence and severity of these diseases. Maneb, Daconil, and Captan have been used as chemical controls, but the large size of willows makes this impractical for most homeowners.

Willow Black Canker-*Glomerella miyabeana* anamorph *Colletotrichum salicis*

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 22-July 18, 2016

Willow Leaf Spot-*Pseudocercospora salicina*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Crape Myrtle

Cercospora Leaf Spot of crape myrtle, caused by *Cercospora 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 spots may become distorted or twisted. Diseased leaves may turn yellow to bright red and then fall prematurely. The disease begins on the lower branches and spreads upwards through the canopy. In severe cases, only the newest leaves at the tips of 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 Ferti-Lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide; or Green Light System Systemic Fungicide; or BioAdvanced Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, and 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 Ferti-Lome Liquid Fungicide, or Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide. Resistant cultivars are the easiest way to prevent Cercospora leaf spot. Cultivars with known resistance include 'Catawba,' 'Cherokee,' 'Glendora White,' and 'Potomac.' Hybrid (*L. indica* x *fauriei*) crape myrtles with known resistance include 'Apalachee,' 'Basham's Party Pink,' 'Caddo,' 'Tonto,' 'Tuskegee,' and 'Tuscarora,' 'Natchez,' 'Sarah's Favorite,' and 'Velma's Royal Delight.' All these cultivars are also resistant to powdery mildew.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Sherrie Smith
Ricky Corder

SPDN
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

Issue 22-July 18, 2016

Crape Myrtle Cercospora Leaf Spot-*Cercospora lythracearum*

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."