



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Dogwood

Orange Slime

Homeowners are sometimes startled in the spring when they notice bright orange exudates (orange slime) on the trunk or branches of a dogwood tree. The cause is injury to the bark or pruning in late winter or early spring before flowering. The tree begins weeping sap from the injury or "bleeding." Yeast and other fungi, such as the yeast *Cryptococcus macerans*, often colonize and feed on the sugar-rich sap. *Cryptococcus macerans* stores energy in carotene-filled sacs, giving a startling orange color to the dogwood sap. Birches, butternuts, maples, muscadines, and walnuts are among other species of plants on which these phenomena can occur. The wounds themselves should not be covered or treated but allowed to heal naturally. The tree usually stops bleeding by early summer.

Dogwood Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo by Roselyn Gira, Garvan Woodland Gardens

Sherrie Smith
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Issue 8-April 25, 2016

Dogwood Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo by Mike Spanel, Lawn Doctor of Little Rock

Dogwood Borers

Dogwood Borers, *Synanthedon scitula*, are pests of dogwood, elm, hickory, pecan, and willow. Symptoms of borer damage are leaves turning prematurely red in the summer, swollen areas on limbs, peeling bark, and D-shaped exit holes. Heavily infested limbs and branches often die. Successive seasons of infestation may kill the tree entirely. Most dogwood borers emerge in May, but a few continue to emerge until September. The larvae overwinter in the tree. The best defense against borers is to maintain good tree health. Dogwoods grow best in humus rich soil with good drainage and afternoon shade. Borer sprays may be applied to the trunk in May. The treatment should be

repeated at 6-week intervals 2-3 times. Bifenthrin and permethrins are labeled for borer control. A fine wire inserted into the entry hole will sometimes kill the larvae.

Dogwood Borer Damage- *Synanthedon scitula*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Dogwood Borer larva-*Synanthedon scitula*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Photinia

Entomosporium Leaf Spot, caused by *Entomosporium mespili*, is a major disease of Photinia. There is no real resistance available. Plants that are already stressed by poor planting locations and severe pruning seem to suffer the most from Entomosporium infections, with new foliage being the most susceptible. Entomosporium Leaf Spot is a disease of Firethorn, Flowering quince, Indian hawthorn, Juneberry, Loquat, Mountain ash, and Photinia. Leaf spots start as tiny, raised dots on either side of the leaf. The spots become bright red with gray centers. Small black specks may be observed in the centers of the spots with a hand lens. Lesions may enlarge, blighting large portions of the leaf. Blighted leaves take on a purple cast and eventually fall prematurely. Repeated infections can seriously weaken the plant. Protective applications of fungicides started at bud break in the spring and repeated at 10-14-day intervals give good control. Chlorothalonil (Daconil), thiophanate-methyl (Halt, Green Light Systemic), and myclobutanil (Immunox) are labeled for Photinia. Bio Advanced Scientific Solutions Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, and Shrubs may be used also.

Photinia Leaf Spot- *Entomosporium mespili*



Photo by Jennifer Caraway, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Photinia Leaf Spot- *Entomosporium mespili*



Photo by Jennifer Caraway, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Slime Mold

Slime Molds belong to the Myxomycetes and are harmless organisms that feed on bacteria and fungi. They are often found in flower beds, on decaying mulch, or in turf. In the amoeba stage, Slime Molds are jelly-like, but later turn dry and powdery in the sporulation stage. Slime Molds come in a variety of colors, often bluish gray, but may be orange, yellow, red, or white, or other colors as well. They may appear overnight, startling homeowners, and are especially common in wetter areas or after extensive periods of rain or overhead irrigation. One of the more common Slime Molds is called the Dog Vomit Slime Mold because panicked homeowners think their pet has become sick. Slime Molds are a natural part of the environment and are not harmful. If unsightly, you can simply wash them away with a garden hose.

Slime Mold-*Diachea leucopodia*



Photo by Randy Forst, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Slime Mold-*Fuligo* sp.



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."

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