



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Harry Lauder's Walkingstick (Contorted filbert)

In many parts of the state shrubs such as Contorted filbert are not completely leafed out. This makes it easier to spot Eastern Filbert Blight on the branches. Harry Lauder's Walkingstick, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', is an ornamental filbert grown for its interesting, twisted branches. They are hardy plants, but are susceptible to Eastern Filbert blight, caused by *Anisogramma anomala*. This fungus only infects from budbreak through shoot elongation. Once the new growth hardens, the tissue is safe from infection. Symptoms are branch and stem dieback, and tiny oval cankers with black fruiting bodies within the cankers. Rows of cankers may occur singly or doubly. Early in the spring during wet weather, sticky white spore masses ooze from the cankers. The spores penetrate immature tissue behind the meristem. There is a 12–15-month latent period where there are no symptoms. By the time the black cankers appear, the disease has been established for up to several years. Infected branches should be removed 1-3 ft. below cankered area and destroyed before budbreak in the spring. Apply fungicides starting at budswell to budbreak and continue at 2-week intervals. A total of four

applications is recommended. Bonide Fung-onil Multi-Purpose Fungicide or Hi-Yield Vegetable, Flower, Fruit, and Ornamental Fungicide or Daconil may be used. Commercial growers may use Abound, or Adament.

Eastern Filbert Blight-*Anisogramma anomala*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Pine/Oak

Fusiform Rust caused by the fungus *Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme* may be found on 32 species of pine and 33 species of oak. It requires both oak and pine to complete its life cycle. Fusiform rust does no significant damage to oak but is a serious disease of pine. Symptoms on oak leaves are small necrotic or chlorotic areas on upper leaf surfaces. On the underside of the leaves, hair-like telial structures may be visible. Uredinial pustules exude masses of bright yellow spores. All spores, which infect both pine and oak, are primarily windborne. High humidity during spore dissemination increases the incidence of infection. Hard pines are more susceptible than soft pines. Jack, Scotch, Austrian, Pitch, Loblolly and Shortleaf are susceptible. Mugho pines, often planted in the home landscape, can also become infected. Infection results in the formation of spherical galls, which eventually surround the stem. The galls disrupt the sap flow, often girdling and killing the part of the tree above it. Trees are greatly weakened and subject to wind damage, with young saplings often killed outright. Treatment consists of pruning out the galls on nearby pines and destroying them. Chemicals are not usually effective.

Oak Fusiform Rust (Urediniospores lower leaf surfaces)-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

Oak Fusiform Rust (upper leaf surface)-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Oak Fusiform Rust (Telia lower leaf surfaces)-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Pine Fusiform Rust-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Mike McClintock, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Pine Fusiform Rust-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Olivia Foster, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Camellia

Rust or Russet mites are tiny mites belonging to the Eriophyid group of mites. They are so small they are very difficult to see even under the microscope. Their shed white skins are much easier to see than the mite itself and are diagnostic for an Eriophyid mite infestation. They are carrot shaped mites and lack all but a pair of front legs. Depending on Eriophyid species and host plant, symptoms may include bronze color patches on leaf surfaces, leaf margins that roll inward or downward, swollen and distorted leaves, galls, russetting on lower leaves, and witches' brooms. Unlike spider mites, these mites may be controlled with common garden insecticides, including Bayer Advanced Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs, fine oils, insecticidal soaps, and Sevin. Predatory mites do an excellent job of control without having to use chemicals. They may be purchased online.

Camellia Rust Mite-*Eriophyid* spp.



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Camellia Rust Mite shed skins- *Eriophyid* spp.



**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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