Sherrie Smith
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Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Rose of Sharon

Rose of Sharon is one of our most reliable hardy shrubs for the sunny shrub border. Rose of Sharon flowers continuously in late summer to fall when few other shrubs are in bloom. They grow 8-12 feet tall and 6-10 feet wide. Flowers may be single or double and come in a range of pretty colors, including blue, pink, red, lavender, purple, and white, depending on the variety. For small gardens the dwarf Rose of Sharon Lil' Kim is available. It grows only 3-4 feet tall and wide. Rose of Sharon grows best with full sun to light shade and moist, well-drained soil. They have very few pests. However, homeowners may be startled by the appearance of large numbers of the Scentless plant bug, *Niesthrea louisianica*. These bugs do no damage to the plant itself. They feed mostly on seed pods. They are considered a beneficial insect because of their feeding on a noxious field weed called Velvetleaf.

Rosa de Siria by Keiddy Urrea

Rosa de Siria o Altea (*Hibiscus syriacus*) es uno de los arbustos recomendados para plantar en bordes soleados de las propiedades, también son preferidos porque florecen al final de el verano y al otoño cuando pocos arbustoslo hacen. Los arbustos Rosa de Siria alcanzan alturas de 8 – 12 pies y 6- 10 pies de ancho. Las flores pueden se sencillas o dobles y tienen variedades de colores incluidos: azul, rosado, rojo, lavanda, purpura y blanco, también existe una variedad enana llamada Lil' Kim que solo crece etre 3 – 4 pies de alto y de ancho. La condiciones apropiadas para el crecimiento de Rosa de Siria son lugares soleados o con poca sombra y suelos húmedos con buen drenaje. Hay pocas plagas o enfermedades que atacan estos arbustos, sin embargo el insecto de encaje Niesthrea suele encontrarse en largas cantidades. Estos insectos no le ocasionan daño a los arbustos porque ellos normalmente se alimentan de las cascaras de las semillas, y son considerados organismos benéficos porque se alimentan de una maleza invasiva que se llama Abutilon (*Abutilon theophrasti)*

Rose of Sharon Scentless Plant Bug-*Niesthrea louisianica*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Cowpeas (Southern Peas) Stinkbug Damage

Stinkbugs can cause serious damage to Southern Peas by puncturing the pods to feed on developing beans. Research has shown that one adult stinkbug can damage up to 59 seeds. The seeds become malformed, shriveled, and distorted, with puncture marks clearly visible. Cowpea curculio can cause similar symptoms. However, Curculios lay their eggs inside feeding wounds which hatch into small larvae. The larvae feed on several of the seeds before boring a hole through the pod wall to escape and pupate in the ground. Stinkbugs lay eggs on the undersides of leaves and on stems. Stinkbug eggs hatch into nymphs that look like small bugs. Stinkbug nymphs do not develop inside the pods. Flail mowing prior to pod set can prevent stinkbug outbreaks. Thiodan, Karate Z, and Mustang Max are labeled for both stinkbugs and Cowpea curculio. Insecticides should be applied when 2 stinkbugs per 10 row feet are found. Curculio control should begin when pods are ½" long and continue at 5-day intervals. Follow label for specific intervals.

Cowpea Stinkbug Damage- *Pentatomidae* spp

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Cowpeas (Southern Peas) Curculio Damage

Another insect pest of cowpea is the Cowpea curculio, *Chalcodermus aeneus* Boheman. This insect is a weevil pest of peas, beans, and other legumes. The adult weevils are black, about ¼ inch long with a prominent, and have "pits" over most of the body surface. Cowpea curculio overwinters as adults in weedy areas or refuse. In the spring the adults emerge and begin feeding. They feed on seeds within pods by puncturing the pod with their snout. These punctures also provide a place for females to lay eggs. Larvae are grub-like and feed on seeds within the pod. Mature larvae chew through the pod and drop to the ground where they pupate. Insecticides available to homeowners include (always check label for rates and special instructions): bifenthrin 0.3%

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+ zeta-cypermethrin 0.075% (Ortho Bug G-Gon Insect Killer for Lawns and Gardens) 1.5 FL oz. 3 Apply when insects first appear. Reapply as necessary to maintain control waiting at least 7 days between applications. carbaryl (various brands) Suppression ONLY. DO NOT apply within 14 days of grazing or harvest for forage or within 3 days of harvest of fresh beans or peas or within 21 days of harvest of dried beans or peas, seed or hay. malathion 57% (various brands) Commercial growers may use those above as well as (always check label for rates and special instructions): beta-cyfluthrin Baythroid XL beta-cyfluthrin + imidacloprid Leverage 360 esfenvalerate (R) Asana XL 0.66 EC lambda-cyhalothrin (R) Karate Z zeta-cypermethrin (R) Mustang Maxx 0.8 EC

Cowpea Curculio-*Chalcodermus aeneus*

Photo by Ricky Corder, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Pumpkin

Cooler temperatures and rainy conditions are favorable for the development of Downy Mildew, caused by *Pseudoperonospora cubensis.* This is a devastating fungal disease of cucurbits including cucumber, squash, pumpkin, and watermelon. On all hosts upper leaf symptoms begin as chlorotic flecks or spots on the surface of the leaves. Gray, brown to purplish-black downy sporulation occurs on the corresponding spots on the underside of the leaves. Downy mildew can progress extremely rapidly within a field, causing the leaves to turn brown, necrotic, and curl upwards. Affected leaves become burned looking, shrivel, and die. Older leaves are infected first. Although rare, fruit and blooms are occasionally infected. However, it is the leaf loss that results in reduced yields, misshapen fruit, and damaged fruit from sunburn as the leaves die and the fruit lose their protective shade. It's important to begin control measures as soon as Downy mildew is confirmed in your field. Homeowners may use Bonide Mancozeb Flowable w/Zinc in rotation with a vegetable fungicide containing chlorothalonil. The use of resistant cultivars helps delay infection.

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Pumpkin Downy mildew- (lower leaf) *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Pumpkin Downy mildew- (upper leaf) *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*

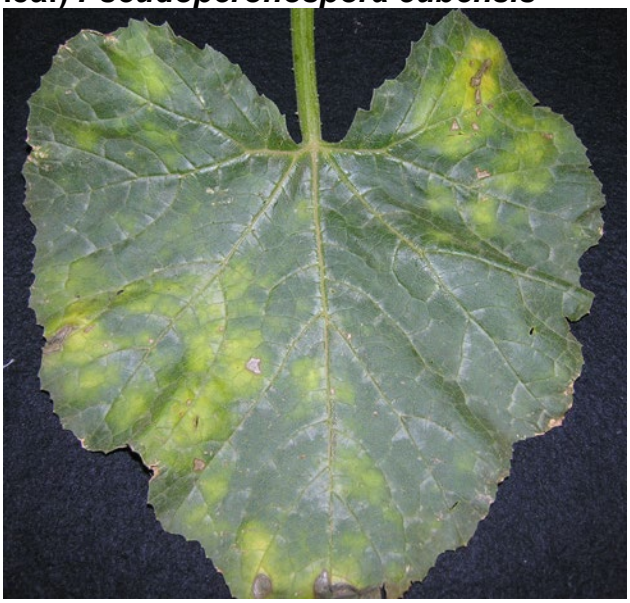

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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.

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