



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Camellia

Algal leaf spot of Camellia, caused by *Cephaleuros virescens* is considered a minor disease for the most part. *C. virescens* has a large host range of over 200 plant species. It is common on camellia, magnolia, holly, Indian Hawthorn, blackberry, and many others. Homeowners mostly notice it on the leaves, but it may also be found on twigs, branches, and fruits. The spots are generally roundish in shape and somewhat raised. The color of the spots is typically gray green to greenish brown, taking on a velvety, reddish-brown color later in the season. Leaves with many spots may fall prematurely. Twig cankers may form if the pathogen penetrates the bark, this usually occurring through wounds. If the resulting canker encircles the twig or branch, the twig or branch will die above the canker. Wet weather and poor air circulation favors the development of Algal Leaf Spot. Most of the time the disease may be controlled by removing affected leaves and destroying them. Good sanitation practices should be followed, and all fallen leaves and twigs raked up and disposed of. Overhead irrigation should be avoided. Plant health should be managed by ensuring that adequate water, fertilizer, and sun are provided. If

disease becomes severe, fungicide sprays of a copper fungicide are recommended. Bonide Copper Dust, Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide Concentrate, Natural Guard Copper Soap, and other Disease B-Gon Copper among others are all labeled for use in Arkansas. Carefully follow product label to avoid plant injury.

Camellia Algal Leaf Spot- *Cephaleuros virescens*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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Camellia Algal Leaf Spot- *Cephaleuros virescens*

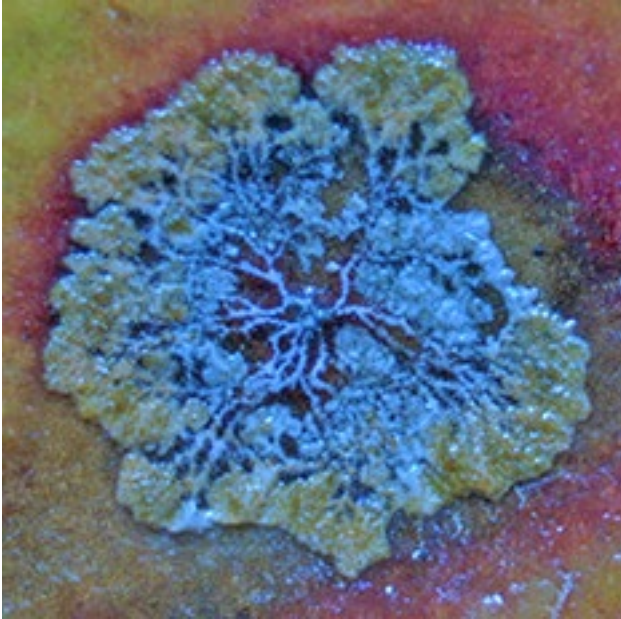


Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Tulip Fire

Tulip Fire, caused by the fungus *Botrytis tulipae*, affects tulips only. Leaves newly emerging from the soil may be distorted and twisted and wither. If leaves survive emergence, they may have brown lesions that under wet environmental conditions enlarge to large blighted scorched areas, hence the common name "Tulip Fire." Small oval spots may appear on flowers. During wet weather damaged leaves, stems, and flowers will become covered with a fuzzy, grey mycelial mat. Eventually, small black sclerotia, (seed-like structures) form on the dead tissue. These are the survival stage of the fungus and

Tulip Fire- *Botrytis tulipae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Tulip Fire- *Botrytis tulipae*



Photo by Sandra Jensen, Cornell University, Bugwood.org

Dogwood Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo courtesy of Roselyn Gira

Birch/Dogwood

Homeowners are concerned when they notice bright orange foam or sap oozing from a woody plant. 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 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, maples, butternuts, and walnuts are among other species of tree 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 courtesy of Mitch Spanel, Lawn Doctor of West Little Rock

Birch Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo by Richard Klerk, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Rose Brown Canker

Re-blooming roses should have been pruned by now. An examination while pruning often reveals cankers on the canes. All canes with cankers should be removed as soon as they are discovered. Brown Canker of roses, caused by *Cryptosporrella umbrina*, is the most common rose canker we see at the Plant



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Health Clinic. Brown Canker starts as small, red to purple spots on the current season's canes. The lesions enlarge into whitish, necrotic areas with purplish reddish margins. Older cankers may coalesce into solid tan patches with purple borders. Under moist environmental conditions, the cankers are covered with yellow spore tendrils. All cankered canes should be pruned out as soon as symptoms are observed. Spring pruning should be done above outward facing buds or leaf axils. A systemic fungicide such as Bayer Advanced Disease Control, or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II, may be applied afterward to discourage the development of new cankers.

Rose Brown Canker- *Cryptosporella umbrina*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Rose Brown Canker- *Cryptosporella umbrina*



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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