



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Peach/nectarine

Alert!! If you had problems with Peach Leaf Curl this season, we are rapidly approaching the window to spray to prevent the disease next season. Peach Leaf Curl is easily controlled with one well-timed fungicide application in the fall after 90% of the leaves have dropped, or very early in the spring before the buds begin to swell. Chlorothalonil or copper sprays are effective. By the time the tree leafs out and the symptoms of Peach Leaf Curl are evident, it is too late to spray during the current season. Spores from the fungus *Taphrina deformans* overwinters on twigs and bud scales. Infection occurs at bud break early in the spring during cool, wet weather. Blister-like swellings, curling, thickening, puckering, and discoloration of the leaves are the first symptoms of Peach leaf curl. Affected areas may turn pink, red or yellow. In severe cases, defoliation occurs along with substantial yield loss.

Peach Leaf Curl-*Taphrina deformans*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Spruce

Cytospora Canker, caused by the fungus *Valsa (Cytospora) kunzei*, is a disease of both Colorado and Norway spruce. We have also seen the disease on Dwarf Alberta Spruce. The disease is found mostly on stressed trees that have been planted outside their normal range. Heat and drought stress, and injury predispose spruce to infection by Cytospora. Trees do not usually begin to show symptoms until they are ten to fifteen years old. The first symptoms of Cytospora Canker are the browning of needles and dying of the lower branches of affected trees. As the disease advances, it spreads to higher branches. Sometimes branches high in the tree are attacked even though lower ones are healthy. The cankers may be discolored, sunken or swollen. They often exude sap which is a bluish-white when dry. Over time, affected trees become ugly and lose their value for ornamental purposes. The progression of Cytospora Canker can be slowed by supplying additional water during dry weather and pruning infected branches. Pruning should be done when the tree is dormant. Disinfect pruners or limb loppers with 70% rubbing alcohol, or a 10% bleach solution, (nine cups water to one cup bleach), between cuts to reduce the chance of spreading the disease. There are no chemical controls for Cytospora canker.

Spruce Cytospora Canker-*Valsa (Cytospora) kunzei*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Spruce Cytospora Canker-*Valsa* (*Cytospora*) *kunzei*



Photo by Ron Matlock, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Spruce Cytospora Canker-*Valsa* (*Cytospora*) *kunzei*



Photo by Michelle Buchanan, University of Arkansas System

Spruce Cytospora Canker-*Valsa* (*Cytospora*) *kunzei*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Poinsettia

Local greenhouses are already working on Poinsettia production for the coming holidays. Poinsettias remain our most popular holiday plant, with over 65 million sold each year in the United States. Poinsettia Scab, caused by the fungus *Sphaceloma poinsettiae* can be a destructive disease in poinsettia production systems. Scab can infect both stems and leaves. Small round spots form on the leaf



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blade, most often on the mid-vein or lateral veins where they may coalesce. The spots develop whitish to brown centers, have a dark red to purple border, and often show a yellowish halo. A prominent feature of the spots is that they buckle out from the upper leaf surface. Sporulation causes the lesions to change from white to a velvety brown. Stem lesions are whitish in color, becoming brown with sporulation, and sometimes surrounded by red pigmentation. The fungus produces a growth regulating hormone that causes an affected shoot to super elongate. Infected plants may tower six inches or more above the rest of the crop. Disease is favored by high humidity and wet growing conditions. Diseased plants should be removed from the greenhouse and destroyed. Heritage, mancozeb, chlorothalonil, or chlorothalonil-thiophanate mixes have been found effective when applied protectively.

Poinsettia Scab Stem Elongation- *Sphaceloma poinsettiae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Poinsettia Scab Leaf Lesions- *Sphaceloma poinsettiae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Poinsettia Scab Conidia- *Sphaceloma poinsettiae*

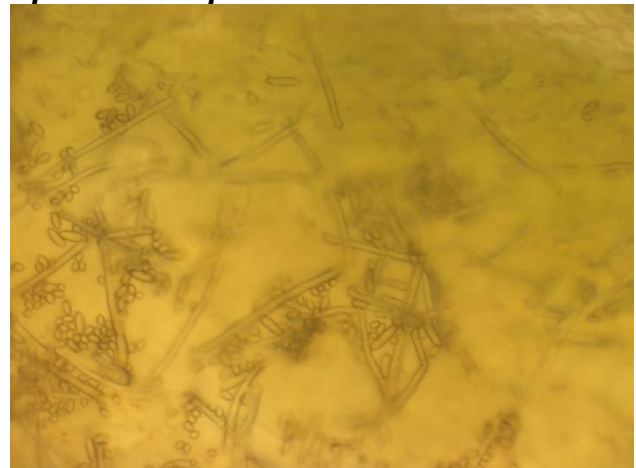


Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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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