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Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Grape

Grapes are not an easy crop to grow in Arkansas. Our high humidity and warm weather is favorable for fungal diseases. Black rot, caused by the fungus *Phyllosticta ampelicida*, formerly *Guignardia bidwellii*, is the most economically important disease of grapes. All new growth is susceptible throughout the growing season, including leaf laminates, petioles, shoots, tendrils, peduncles, and fruit. Symptoms on leaves are circular tan spots that eventually become reddish brown with a narrow dark brown border. Black pimple-like fruiting bodies of the fungus form in the lesions. The fruiting bodies also appear in black lesions on the young shoots. Infection on the berries starts as a small white dot. In only a few hours, the tiny dot is surrounded by a reddish-brown ring. Within a few days the berry starts to dry, shrivel, and wrinkle to become a hard, blue-black mummy. The symptoms on Muscatine fruit are small, black, superficial, scabby lesions on infected berries. The lesions may coalesce to cover most of the berry. Infected berries may crack at the edges of the scabs. Black rot can be effectively controlled by using Captain, or Abound, or Pristine, or Aprovia, or Revus Top, or Adament, or Topguard, or Inspire Super, or Quadris Top, starting when shoots are 4-6 inches high, and continuing at 14-day intervals until August.

Grape Black Rot- *Phyllosticta ampelicida*, formerly *Guignardia bidwellii*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Grape Black Rot- *Phyllosticta ampelicida*, formerly *Guignardia bidwellii*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Redbud

The most common insect we see on Redbud in Arkansas is the Redbud Leaffolder, Fascista cercerisella. The adult is a small blackish moth with a white head and three white spots on the forewings. In Arkansas one to three larvae are often seen in the same nest. The larva folds the leaf and tie it closed with silk, providing themselves with a protected feeding spot. They feed on the outer layer of the leaf skeletonizing the leaf. It is thought they overwinter as pupae in leaves or debris on the ground. The larvae begin white to greenish white in color, becoming black and white striped at maturity. There are multiple generations. There is seldom any need for control as they don't seriously damage the health of the tree. Folded leaves may be picked off and destroyed. In severe cases, a systemic insecticide containing imidacloprid may be used.

Redbud Leaffolder Damage- *Fascista cercerisella*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Redbud Leaffolder early instar- *Fascista cercerisella*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Redbud Leaffolder middle instar-*Fascista cercerisella*

Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Redbud Leaffolder late instar-*Fascista cercerisella*

Photo by Lorraine Graney, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bugwood.org

Redbud Leaffolder Moth-*Fascista cercerisella*

Photo by Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

Mimosa

Mimosa trees, (*Albizia julibrissin*), are common trees in the south. They are drought tolerant when established and thrive in a wide range of soils, although preferring a rich sandy soil. Mimosa are winter hardy zones 6-9. Although often seen as a weed in the southern part of their range, many people value mimosa for their pink flowers and the tropical look they add to landscapes. The biggest disease problem with mimosa is Mimosa wilt, a vascular wilt caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Perniciosum*. Symptoms are leaf yellowing and leaf wilt by midsummer. Most infected trees die branch by branch over several months, but some die within a few weeks of starting to wilt. Almost all infected trees die within a year of first

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wilting. In advanced stages, infected trees ooze a frothy liquid from cracks and grow sprouts on trunks. Brown streaks are observable in roots and branches. This is a soilborne disease, and unfortunately, not much can be done for a tree with vascular wilt. Never use high-nitrogen fertilizers. A balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) may help alleviate symptoms in infected trees that are not too far gone. Infected trees should be watered frequently to decrease wilt symptoms, and dead branches should be removed and burned. Two wilt-resistant varieties are available, Charlotte, with light-colored flowers, and Tryon, with deeper red flowers.

Mimosa Wilt-*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Perniciosum*

Photo by Amy Simpson, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Mimosa Wilt-*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *Perniciosum*

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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