Sherrie Smith
Keiddy Urrea

Issue 27, August 24, 2020

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 not 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

Rose Of Sharon Bug-*Niesthrea louisianica*

Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Cowpea

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. 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

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the pods. Flail mowing prior to pod set can prevent stinkbug outbreaks. Homeowners may use Ortho Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer, or Ortho Bug-G-Gon Insect Killer for Lawns and Gardens, or Bio Advanced Fruit, Citrus and Vegetable Insect Control, or malathion. For commercial growers, 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.

Cowpea Stinkbug damage-

***Pentatomidae* spp.**

Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Elm

We are seeing some defoliation of elm, in some cases severe. A fungal disease called Elm Black Spot is the important foliar disease on North America elms (Ulmus spp.). This disease is also called elm leaf scab, elm leaf spot, or anthracnose. The causal agent of this disease is the fungus *Stegophora* (syn. *Gnomonia*) *ulmea*. Most elm species are susceptible to this disease, but Ulmus americana is the most susceptible. This disease is considered a minor disease on mature trees but can cause significant defoliation and twig dieback in nursery production on susceptible cultivars. Symptoms start out as small, whitish, or yellowish flecks or blotches on the upper surface of the leaf that later enlarge with black specks developing inside. These black specks can merge to form a single, irregular shaped stomata that is 0.5 to 3.0 mm in diameter. In general, individual stomata remain separate surrounded by a yellow white band of dead tissue, but sometimes these stomata can grow so close together to appear to cover the entire discolored area. When this happens, the symptoms can look similar to Rhytisma tar spot. Besides infecting the leaves, this fungus can infect and girdle petioles and shoots. Successive seasons of twig blighting can cause the formation of witches' broom. Disease infection often begins early in the growing season and can be very damaging during wet summers. Management of this disease includes removing infected leaf debris and dead shoots. Avoid overhead irrigation and close spacing of cuttings and young trees. Chemical control of this disease is generally not warranted for large trees. For small nursery trees, preventive fungicide applications of chemicals such as mancozeb, copper, or chemicals with the active ingredient chlorothalonil may be made starting at budbreak in the spring and continuing at regular intervals until leaves are fully developed.

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Keiddy Urrea

Elm Black Spot-*Stegophora ulmea*

Photo by Sherrie Smith 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 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.

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

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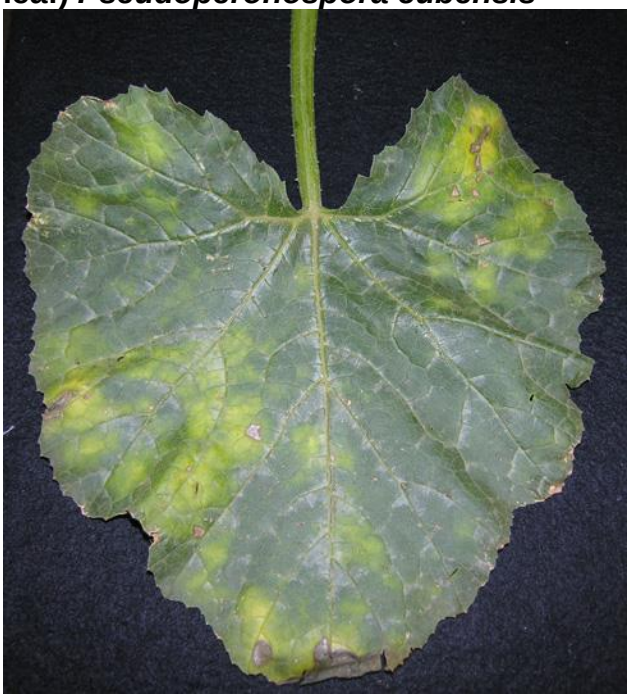
Pumpkin Downy Mildew-(upper leaf) *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*



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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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