



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Dogwood

Septoria Leaf Spot, caused by *Septoria cornicola*, is a late season disease that under most conditions requires no chemical controls. However, on trees with a severe history of the disease, the use of fungicides may be necessary. Symptoms are grayish, angular spots with a dark red or purple border. Tiny, dark fruiting bodies of the fungus can be observed in the center of the lesions, using a hand lens. The spots first appear on lower leaves and move upward through the canopy. All dead leaves should be raked up and removed from the planting. Good air circulation, proper fertilization, and the avoidance of overhead irrigation help limit the incidence of Septoria leaf spot. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil, or mancozeb, or thiophanate-methyl can be used, beginning in the spring just before flower bracts are fully expanded and repeated 2-3 times 10-14 days apart. This also gives good protection against Dogwood Spot anthracnose.

Dogwood Septoria Leaf Spot- *Septoria cornicola*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

Blueberry

Blueberry stem blight, caused by *Botryosphaeria dothidea*, can severely limit the establishment of blueberry plantings in the southeastern United States. The disease enters the plant through wounds caused by winter injury, pruning, or insects. Rapid death of individual canes occurs, often killing the



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entire plant. Both High Bush and Rabbiteye blueberries may be affected, especially young plantings of the more susceptible cultivars. Symptoms are rapid wilting of individual branches. Stems recently killed by the fungus do not drop their leaves which turn brown or red. The entire bush dies when the infection reaches the base of the plant. A wilted stem may be split lengthwise as an aid to diagnosis. A stem blight-infected stem will have a uniform, light brown discoloration in the wood extending down the infected side of the stem. This discoloration is also highly visible in a cross section of the stem. The stem blight fungus does not respond well to fungicides. Control of the disease relies on good cultural practices and resistant cultivars. Disease is worse on very light sandy soils and on heavy black mucky soils. Stems with lesions should be pruned below the brown discoloration. The diseased clippings should be removed from the field and destroyed. Cultivars which are known to be very susceptible to stem blight should be avoided in areas where stem blight is a problem. Bounty, Bluechip, Pearl River, 'Emerald', 'Star', 'Sharpblue', 'Elliott', 'Misty', 'Bluecrisp', 'Darrow', 'Southmoon', 'Ozarkblue', 'Sapphire', and 'Brightwell' are considered more resistant. 'Relatively more susceptible include 'Legacy', 'Gulf Coast', 'Cooper', 'Georgiagem', 'O'Neal', 'Reveille', 'Jubilee', and 'Magnolia'. Harrison, Bladen, Croatan, Reveille, and the Rabbiteye cultivars Premier and Powderblue are considered susceptible but have been grown with losses averaging less than 10-20%. Young bushes are the most susceptible. Once established (3-4 yr), these cultivars tend to survive well. The most resistant cultivars are Murphy, O'Neal, and

Cape Fear, which may become infected, but have rarely been known to die due to this disease.

Blueberry Botryosphaeria Stem Canker-*Botryosphaeria dothidea*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Blueberry Botryosphaeria Stem Canker-*Botryosphaeria dothidea*



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Tomato

Leaf mold, caused by *Passalora fulva* (previously called *Fulvia fulva* or *Cladosporium fulvum*), is a disease found commonly in greenhouse tomatoes, and less frequently in field-grown tomatoes. However, we do see it in the field in seasons with long periods of high humidity and prolonged leaf wetness. The first symptoms on the leaves are small yellow spots on the upper leaf surface with corresponding olive-green to grayish-purple, velvety spots on the underside of the leaves. Leaves turn brown, crinkle up and die, falling from the plant prematurely. Fruit infections show as black, leathery, stem end rot on both green and ripe fruits. The rots can encompass 1/3 of the fruit surface. Resistant varieties are available, but this fungus mutates rapidly, so a previously resistant variety may prove susceptible in subsequent years. It is important to avoid

overhead irrigation when watering the plants. If overhead irrigation can't be avoided, do it early in the day so the leaves have a chance to dry. Don't over-crowd plants. Provide adequate row and plant spacing. After harvest, remove and destroy tomato debris. Practice crop rotation. Plant in an area that has not had tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, or peppers planted in that spot the last three years. Fungicides such as Maneb, or Gavel, or Tanos, or products containing Chlorothalonil provide protection if applied weekly.

Tomato Leaf Mold-*Passalora fulva*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas
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Tomato Leaf Mold-*Passalora fulva*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Fig

A common leaf disease of fig is Fig rust, caused by *Physopella fici*. Symptoms begin as small, angular, light yellow-green flecks on the leaves. The spots turn yellow to orange, brown, enlarge and spread as the growing season progresses.

Rust pustules may be observed on the undersides of the leaves. Heavily infected leaves die and fall from the tree prematurely. The tree may be completely defoliated in two or three weeks. Defoliation may cause the tree to become susceptible to cold injury when it tries to replace the lost foliage late in the season. Fig rust can be controlled with one or two applications of neutral copper spray in May or early June. The first application should be made when the first leaves have reached full size. The second application should follow in 3 to 4 weeks.

Fig Rust-*Physopella fici*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Fig Rust-*Physopella fici*



**Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas
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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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