



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
Cooperative Extension



Baldcypress

Baldcypress may be attacked during the hot summer months by the Baldcypress Rust Mite, *Eptrimerus taxodii*. Rust mites are microscopic eriophyid mites, most active during the warm season. Symptoms are needles becoming yellowish and then brown. Serious infestations can cause the entire tree to turn a rusty brown color. The white cast skins of the mites are the easiest way to diagnose the presence of rust mites. Applications of Carbaryl (Sevin), or Abamectin (Avid), or Insecticidal soap will control the mites if good coverage is achieved. Bayer Advanced Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs is a systemic insecticide that is very effective and does not require as many applications. Baldcypress is very sensitive to horticultural oils so avoid the use of oils for mite control on Bald cypress.

Baldcypress Rust Mite-*Eptrimerus taxodii*



**Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension**

Oak

Fusiform Rust caused by the fungus *Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme* may be found on 32 species of pine and 33 species of oak. It requires both oak and pine to complete its life cycle. Symptoms on oak leaves are small necrotic or chlorotic areas on upper leaf surfaces. On the underside of the leaves, hair-like telial structures may be visible. Uredinial pustules exude masses of bright yellow spores. All spores, which infect both pine and oak, are primarily windborne. High humidity during spore dissemination increases the incidence of infection. Hard pines are more susceptible than soft pines. Jack, Scotch, Austrian, Pitch, Loblolly and Shortleaf are susceptible. Mugho pines, often planted in the home landscape, can also become infected. Infection results in the formation of spherical galls, which eventually surround the stem. The galls disrupt the sap flow, often girdling and killing the part of the tree above it. Trees are greatly weakened and subject to wind damage, with young saplings often killed outright. Treatment consists of pruning out the galls on nearby pines and destroying them. Chemicals are not usually effective.



Oak Fusiform Rust (upper leaf surface)-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Oak Fusiform Rust (Urediniospores lower leaf surfaces)-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Oak Fusiform Rust (Telia lower leaf surfaces)-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Fusiform Rust on Pine-*Cronartium quercuum* f.sp. *fusiforme*



Photo by Mike McClintock, 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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