



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

Follow us on social media



Orange Slime

Homeowners are sometimes startled in the spring when they notice bright orange exudates (Orange Slime) on the trunk or branches of a Dogwood tree or another woody plant on their property. This is not a disease. The cause is injury to the bark or pruning in late winter or early spring before flowering. The tree begins weeping sap from the injury or “bleeding.” Yeast and other fungi, such as the yeast *Cryptococcus macerans*, often colonize and feed on the sugar rich sap. *Cryptococcus macerans* stores energy in carotene-filled sacs giving a startling orange color to the sap. Birches, Maples, Butternuts, Muscadines, and Walnuts are among other species of trees on which these phenomena can occur. The wounds themselves should not be covered or treated but allowed to heal naturally. The tree usually stops bleeding by early summer.

Muscadine Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo by Allen Bates, formerly, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

River Birch Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo by Richard Klerk, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



Dogwood Orange Slime- *Cryptococcus macerans*



Photo by Roselyn Gira

Ash

Susceptible cultivars of Ash are prone to Ash Anthracnose during cool, wet springs. This is a fungal disease caused by *Discula fraxinea*. The fungus overwinters on infected twigs, bud scales, and leaf litter. In the spring the spores are carried by rain and wind to newly emerging leaves and tender new twigs. Symptoms are black blotches on the leaves, small purplish-brown spots on the leaves, and leaf distortion.

Premature leaf fall can be dramatic when petioles are infected. The tree will re-foliate almost immediately, but year after year of infection followed by having to produce another crop of leaves eventually weakens the tree and permits readier access for insects and other pathogens. Control begins with good sanitation. All fallen leaves and twigs should be raked up and removed. Resistant cultivars should be used when possible. Blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*) is very resistant. Pumpkin (*F. tomentosa*) and American ash (*F. americana*) are less susceptible than green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*) and Chinese ash (*F. chinensis*). Preventative fungicides may be applied at bud swell in the spring followed by a second application two weeks later. Products containing chlorothalonil or copper may be used.

Ash Anthracnose-*Discula fraxinea*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension



Sherrie Smith
Keiddy Urrea

Filbert

Shrubs, such as the Contorted Filbert, are not completely leafed out yet in many parts of the state. This makes it easier to spot Eastern Filbert Blight on the branches. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, also known as the Contorted Filbert, is the hazel cultivar *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'. It is an ornamental filbert grown for its interesting, twisted branches. They are hardy plants but are susceptible to Eastern Filbert Blight caused by *Anisogramma anomala*. This fungus only infects from budbreak through shoot elongation. Once the new growth hardens, the tissue is safe from infection. Symptoms are branch and stem dieback and tiny oval cankers with black fruiting bodies within the cankers. Rows of cankers may occur singly or doubly. Early in the spring during wet weather, sticky, white spore masses ooze from the cankers. The spores penetrate immature tissue behind the meristem. There is a 12- to 15-month latent period where there are no symptoms. By the time the black cankers appear, the disease may have been established for up to several years. Infected branches should be removed 1-3 ft. below the cankered area and destroyed before budbreak in the spring. Apply fungicides starting at bud swell to budbreak and continue at two-week intervals. A total of four applications is recommended. Bonide Fung-onil Multi-Purpose Fungicide; Hi-Yield Vegetable, Flower, Fruit, and Ornamental Fungicide; or Daconil may be used. Commercial growers may use Abound or Adament.

Filbert Blight-*Anisogramma anomala*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Maple

Cool, wet weather in the spring is favorable for outbreaks of Maple anthracnose caused by the fungus *Gloeosporium apocryptum*. Symptoms are brown to black lesions along the veins of newly opening leaves. The lesions expand and can cover large areas of the leaves. Buds, leaves, twigs, and branches up to an inch in diameter may be killed. The infected leaves fall from the tree causing the tree to expend additional energy to re-foliate. Yearly infections by the fungus can weaken maple trees, predisposing them to other diseases and to insects. Good sanitation is critical in anthracnose control. All fallen leaves and twigs should be raked up and removed from the planting. If the tree is small enough to make pruning practical, infected twigs should be pruned out of the canopy. A product containing chlorothalonil or mancozeb or copper may be applied at bud swell in the spring and twice afterwards at 10- to 14-day intervals.

Maple Anthracnose-*Gloeosporium apocryptum*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Maple Anthracnose-*Gloeosporium apocryptum*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, 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.

"This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27279/project accession no. 1013890] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture."

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.