



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Pear

Pear Blister Mite damage can resemble herbicide injury. However, closer examination under magnification reveals tiny mites. Outbreaks of the Pear Blister Mite, *Eriophyes pyri*, can cause severe damage. The mites cause brown blisters on the undersides of leaves and depressed russet spots on fruit. Heavily damaged fruit may become deformed and distorted. The blisters begin as small green pimples on the lower leaf surface. As the blisters age, they become reddish, then brown in color. The mite is an extremely small sausage-shaped mite that overwinters at the base of buds or under outer bud scales. In spring when buds begin to swell females penetrate deeper into buds and lay eggs on the tissue. Development from egg to adult requires approximately 20 to 30 days during the spring. The feeding activity of the mites causes blisters on developing leaves. As the blisters form, leaf cells near the center of the blisters die and pull apart as surrounding cells enlarge, creating a hole. Several generations develop within blisters during a growing season. Subsequent generations require only 10 to 12 days to fully develop. Fruit damage is caused by feeding injury to buds before bloom. Overwintering

blister mites are found beneath the outer bud scales in October and November. Begin scouting after harvest. Collect one shoot from the top and one from eye level from 20 healthy trees in a block. When three or more shoots show damage, fruit damage can be expected the following spring if treatments are not applied either postharvest or during dormancy. In early spring young leaves that are still furled will show light green to red-rough spots where the mites have been feeding. Oils or applications of sulfur during the dormant season are control options.

Pear Blister Mite-*Eriophyes pyri*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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Pear Blister Mite-*Eriophyes pyri*



Photo by Keiddy Urrea, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Pear Blister Mite-*Eriophyes pyri*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Pear Blister Mite-*Eriophyes pyri*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Strawberry

Anthracnose Fruit Rot is found wherever strawberries are grown. Three species of the fungus *Colletotrichum* have been associated with anthracnose on strawberry: *Colletotrichum acutatum*, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, and *Colletotrichum fragariae*. Chandler, Camarosa, Treasure, and Albion are popular cultivars that are particularly susceptible. Symptoms on fruit appear as brown to black,



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water-soaked spots on green and ripe fruit. The lesions become sunken and firm, turning brown to black. Pink, salmon, or orange-colored masses of spores form in the lesion under humid conditions. The entire fruit may dry up and become mummified. Infected flowers may also dry up, or developing fruit may remain small, hard, and misshapen.

Lesions on strawberry stolons and petioles are often associated with anthracnose crown rot. Lesions begin as small red streaks, and rapidly become dark, sunken, elongated lesions. Pink spore masses form under humid conditions. When lesions encircle the stem, its leaf wilts and dies. The first symptom of anthracnose crown rot is wilting of the youngest leaves on the plant. Once the crown rot is extensive, the entire plant wilts and dies. Anthracnose crown rot is most often caused by *Colletotrichum fragariae*. Anthracnose spores may survive up to nine months on debris in the field. Spread and severity of the disease may be reduced by practices that keep the foliage as dry as possible. Fields where high rates of nitrogen are used, especially ammonium sources of nitrogen, have significantly higher disease levels. Rotate Captan with Luna Sensation, or Switch, or CaptEvate, or Elevate, or Fontelis, or Scala. To be effective, sprays should be started before the onset of the disease. Follow label for best results.

Strawberry Anthracnose Fruit Rot-*Colletotrichum acutatum*



Photos by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Strawberry Anthracnose Petiole

Rot-*Colletotrichum fragariae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Strawberry Anthracnose Crown

Rot-*Colletotrichum fragariae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
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Willow

Willow trees remain popular in the landscape. Willow scab, caused by the fungus *Venturia saliciperda*, infects *Salix* species wherever willows are grown. The willow scab fungus is frequently found on willow with an unrelated pathogen, the black canker fungus *Glomerella miyabeana*, and together they produce an extremely destructive blight of willow. Both pathogens over-winter as dormant spores in leaves and twigs that were infected last season. The spores are wind and rain-splashed in the spring to opening buds and leaves. Infected leaves and twigs die and fall prematurely to the ground. During wet weather throughout the growing season, new spores are produced and released from the infected debris. Black canker usually infects leaves and twigs later in the season than scab. The cankers most often appear at the nodes underlying petioles. Leaf blades that become infected turn black near the base. Leaves will shrivel and drop prematurely. Homeowners may use Fertilome Broad Spectrum Lawn and Garden Fungicide (chlorothalonil); or Hi-Yield Vegetable, Flower, Fruit, and Ornamental Fungicide (chlorothalonil); or Ortho Maxx Garden Disease Control (chlorothalonil); or Ortho Disease B Gon Garden Fungicide (chlorothalonil); or Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide (chlorothalonil); or Bonide Fung-onil Multipurpose Fungicide (chlorothalonil); or Spectracide Immunox Plus (myclobutanil & permethrin); or Bonide Rose Rx Systemic Drench (tebuconazole); or Bayer Advanced Garden-Disease Control for Roses, Flowers, Shrubs (tebuconazole); or Bayer Advanced



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Garden-All-in-One Fungicide/Insecticide/Fertilizer (tebuconazole & imidacloprid); or Fertilome 2-N-1 Systemic Fungicide (tebuconazole & imidacloprid); or Bonide Infuse Systemic for Turf and Ornamentals (thiophanate-methyl); or Ortho Rose and Flower Insect and Disease Control (triticonazole & acetamiprid).

Willow Scab-*Venturia saliciperda*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Willow Scab Spores-*Venturia saliciperda*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Willow Black Canker-*Glomerella miyabeana*



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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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