



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Oak

This time of year, it is common for homeowners to send us oak twigs they find littering the lawn. Although there are several species of beetle that can cause this phenomenon, the one we have been seeing is the Oak Twig Pruner *Elaphidionoides villosus*. This species of long-horned beetle can be damaging as it attacks healthy trees. In the spring the female lays eggs in small twigs. The larva feeds in the inside of the twig, then bores into the center of the twig and tunnels downward. As the larva approaches maturity, it severs the twig or branch by tunneling in circles from the center outward to the bark. The pruned twig or branch breaks and falls to the ground where the larva pupates and spends the winter before emerging as an adult beetle in the spring to begin the life cycle anew. There are no chemical controls recommended for control of Oak Twig Pruner. Sanitation is recommended to reduce numbers. Clean up all fallen branches and twigs and burn or otherwise remove from the property.

Oak Twig Pruner Damage- *Elaphidionoides villosus*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension



Oak Twig Pruner-*Elaphidionoides villosus*



Photo by James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Grape

Injured berries become susceptible to invasions by many species of fungi, yeasts, and bacteria as they ripen, and their sugar content passes 8%. Any of several fungi can cause Berry Rot, also called Sour Rot or Bunch Rot, including, *Aspergillus niger*, *Alternaria carbonarius*, *Alternaria tenuis*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Cladosporium herbarum*, *Rhizopus arrhizus*, *Penicillium* sp., and others. These pathogens enter where injury has occurred by insects,

birds, or mechanical damage, or through lesions resulting from powdery mildew or other diseases on the berry. Conditions for development of Berry Rot favors high relative humidity, rain, and overhead irrigation while berries are maturing. Initial symptoms of Berry Rot caused by *Rhizopus arrhizus* are splits running the length of the berry. Fruit juices may drip from the lesions. Later, a dark brown to black layer of fungal growth fills the split. The decay continues until the entire berry collapses. Leaf removal from around berry clusters immediately after berry set can significantly reduce the incidence of these fruit rots. Leaf removal also leads to tougher berry skins, thereby reducing the risk of fruit injuries. Leaf removal also improves air circulation. Good insect and disease control are also helpful in controlling entry points for berry rots. Fungicides applied at the proper growth stages are often necessary:

- ✓ **Fungicide at petal fall/beginning of berry formation**
- ✓ **Fungicide just before berries touch**
- ✓ **Fungicide at beginning of fruit coloring (veraison)**
- ✓ **Fungicide three weeks before harvest**

Homeowners must rely on Captan, or Bio Advanced Natria Disease Control, or Bonide Citrus, Fruit, and Nut Orchard Spray, or Kaligreen, or Milstop, or Spectracide Immunox Plus, or Bonide Mancozeb Flowable with Zinc,



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or Green Cure. Kaligreen and Milstop are labeled for organic production. Commercial growers may use Topguard EQ, or Flint 50 WG, or Ziram Granuflo, or Aliette WDG, or Reason 500 SC, or gavel 75 DF, or Presidio.

Grape Rhizopus Berry Rot- *Rhizopus arrhizus*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Grape Rhizopus Berry Rot- *Rhizopus arrhizus*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Peach

Two species of *Colletotrichum*, *C. acutatum*, and *C. gloeosporioides* have been found to cause Peach Anthracnose. Symptoms on fruit are circular, sunken, tan to brown, necrotic spots with concentric rings. Ripe fruit is the most susceptible. Lesions are large, and firm to the touch. Masses of orange-colored spores occur in the center of the lesions. Warm, wet weather favors disease development. Spores are primarily disseminated by rain and wind. Anthracnose also occurs on plum and sour cherry. Captan is the fungicide of choice for control of Peach Anthracnose. Captan can be used in rotation with Quadris Top, Topguard EQ, or Pristine, or Inspire Super, or Indar, or



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Luna Sensation, or Abound. Carefully read entire product label for restrictions as some of these products can be damaging to nearby apples. The orchard floor and nearby environs should be kept free of weeds and wild prunus.

Peach Anthracnose-*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Peach Anthracnose Spores-*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*



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.

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