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## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Kerria

Japanese Kerria is a valuable but underutilized shrub. It has bright green foliage and lovely yellow flowers over a long bloom period. It is one of the few shrubs that thrive and bloom in both shade and sun. The most common disease we see on Kerria is leaf and stem blight caused by the fungus *Blumeriella kerriae*. Symptoms are numerous small red-brown spots with purple borders on foliage. Spots may coalesce and cause the leaves to turn yellow to brown and then drop from the plant. Stem lesions are purple-brown, elliptical cankers, which can girdle the stems causing dieback. Control consists of ruthless sanitation along with the avoidance of overhead irrigation and the use of fungicides. You may use Bio Advanced Disease Control in rotation with a fungicide containing chlorothalonil.

### Kerria Leaf and Stem blight- *Blumeriella kerriae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
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## Kerria Leaf and Stem blight- *Blumeriella kerriae*



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## Pine

Pine Bark Adelgids, *Pineus strobi*, are primarily pests of White pine but are sometimes found on Scots, Austrian and other pines. They do not seriously injure otherwise healthy older pines but can-do significant damage to young trees, stunting or killing them. The adults are small, dark (purplish to yellow) insects covered with a white, woolly material. Eggs are white to light yellow brown but as the embryo grows, the eggs darken. Nymphs resemble adults. At first naked and yellow, newly hatched nymphs soon darken and begin to secrete white, fluffy threads. Pine bark adelgids overwinter mostly as immature females. In late winter, development resumes, and each female lays up to 24 eggs in a woolly mass. After laying eggs, the female dies. From these eggs develop both winged and wingless forms. Of the several different forms of immature adelgids, only the crawler stage and winged forms are capable of migrating. The stationary wingless forms continue to reproduce parthenogenetically all season. There are five or more generations per year. Natural predators usually keep Pine Bark Adelgids in check, but young trees may need treatment when populations are heavy. Insecticidal soaps and fine horticultural oils are effective at killing all stages. Systemic insecticides containing imidacloprid may also be used. Merit or Bio Advanced Science Solutions Insect Control for Trees and Shrubs are two brands that contain this active ingredient. Follow label.



## Pine Bark Adelgids-*Pineus strobi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Pine Bark Adelgids-*Pineus strobi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Willow

Willow species remain popular in the landscape spite of being relatively short lived for a tree and somewhat messy with dropped twigs and

leaves. The Weeping willow is grown for its majestic size and form while the Corkscrew willow is planted for the winter interest its twisted limbs provide. Willow Blight is a catch-all term used to describe common willow diseases that often occur singly or together on a tree. Rapid branch dieback, blackened stems, and blighting of shoots and leaves are symptoms of three diseases often found together on willow. The diseases are Black Stem canker caused by *Glomerella miyabeana*, Willow scab caused by *Venturia saliciperda*, and Leaf spot caused by *Pseudocercospora salicina*. Willow scab attacks current year leaves in the spring, rapidly killing them. Olive green velvety spore masses develop along the veins and in spots on the underside of leaves. Small shoots are killed when the fungus grows into the petioles. 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. *Pseudocercospora* Leaf spot causes lesions 0.5 - 5 mm in diameter and irregular in shape, with brown centers and purple margins. As the disease progresses and the lesions become more numerous, the leaves turn yellow and fall from the tree. In severe cases, dieback of the branches can occur. Control consists of pruning out diseased twigs, raking up fallen twigs and leaves, and avoiding overhead irrigation to prevent splashing spores to uninfected tissue. Avoiding stress by keeping willows properly watered is important in reducing the incidence and severity of these diseases. Fungicides have been used as



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chemical controls, but the large size of willows makes this impractical for most homeowners.

**Willow Black canker-*Glomerella miyabeana* anamorph *Colletotrichum salicis***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

**Willow Black canker-*Glomerella miyabeana* anamorph *Colletotrichum salicis***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

**Willow Scab-*Venturia saliciperda***



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## **Willow Leaf spot-*Pseudocercospora salicina***



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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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