



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.

Iris

It is time to scout your plants for aphid infestation. The clinic received an iris sample this week with collapsing flower stalks. Upon close examination, aphids were discovered at all life stages on stems and scapes. Insecticidal soap, Rotenone, permethrins, pyrethrins, and imidacloprid are some of the insecticides labeled for control of aphids.

Aphid damage



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Tomato

Glyphosate damage on tomatoes is common this time of year. They are very sensitive to this herbicide. Most homeowners don't realize that Roundup can drift up to 3400 feet with only a slight breeze. Symptoms are yellowing and bleaching of leaflets, especially at the base, stunting, and death. Spray only on absolutely windless days and stay well away from valuable plants.

Aphids



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Tomato with glyphosate injury



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Another problem for tomato growers occurs when tomatoes are put out too early and suffer cold damage. Blooms damaged by cold produce deformed fruits. This phenomenon is known as catfacing. Fruits produced during warmer periods are normal.

Tomato catfacing



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Ash

Anthracnose attacks many species of shade trees this time of year. Sycamore, ash, oak, maple and walnut, commonly exhibit symptoms each spring. The species of fungi responsible, although related, are host specific. *Apiognomonia errabunda* is the anthracnose pathogen that attacks ash. Spores from previous year's infections are wind and rain dispersed on newly expanding leaves and twigs. The infected leaves and twigs appear scorched and wilted. Normally the disease is unsightly, but does little permanent damage. However, repeated infections may weaken the tree as it struggles to replace fallen leaves. Symptoms appear first as water-soaked spots on expanding spring growth when cool, wet weather prevails. The spots enlarge and develop into brownish-green to dark brown lesions along leaf veins and margins. Growth of the infected tissue slows or

stops as the rest of the leaf continues to expand. As a result, the leaf tissue around the lesion becomes distorted and wrinkled. Mature leaves are more resistant to infection. Controls on mature trees of all species are mainly cultural as chemicals are rarely practical for homeowners. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed. Tree stress should be relieved with adequate water and fertilizer. Where chemicals are warranted due to repeated serious infections, mancozeb applied at budswell and twice again during leaf expansion (in most years, this would be at 10-14 day intervals) is effective. Green ash is more resistant than White ash.

Ash anthracnose



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Maple anthracnose



Sycamore anthracnose



Heritage, Prostar, Eagle, and Bayleton are labeled for Large Patch. Spectricide Immunox and Green Light Fung-Away Systemic fungicide are available for homeowners.



Steve Vann University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Bermuda and Zoysia

Patches in Bermudagrass and Zoysia occur usually in the spring as grass is breaking dormancy, or in the autumn as fall approaches. Rhizoctonia species are responsible for Both Large Patch and Brown Patch in warm season grasses. Irregular circular patches may be several feet or more in diameter. Sometimes a smoke colored halo may be observed early in the morning at the margins of the patch. Water soaked black to reddish brown lesions usually can be found on stolons and basal leaf sheaths. Affected shoots may be pulled easily from their points of attachment. In Zoysia, the patches occur a little later in the spring, two to eight weeks after green up, or in the autumn. Roots are discolored but not rotted. Patches can enlarge to more than 25 feet in diameter. Orange rings or patches up to 6 feet in diameter may appear. Sometimes symptoms slowly disappear during the growing season as surviving tillers start filling in the killed spots. Night irrigation and too much nitrogen increase both severity and incidence of patch diseases. Complete fertilizers with time release nitrogen should be used instead of quick release nitrogen. A soil test is useful to see where fertility levels are. Good drainage is essential for a healthy lawn. The turf should be de-thatched if thatch accumulates to more than 0.5" thick. De-thatching should be done while grass is actively growing. Fungicides may be applied once in the spring between March 15 and April 15, and again in the fall between September 20 and October 10.