



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.

## Blackberry

Rosette or double blossom, caused by the fungus *Cercospora rubi*, is a serious disease of many cultivars of blackberries. Reduced yields, poor quality fruit, and cane death may result. Buds on primocanes become infected in early summer at bloom. In the spring following the initial infection, a proliferation (witches-broom) of shoots occurs at the infected bud site. Infected shoots are usually smaller than normal and have pale green foliage that later turns bronze. Unopened flower buds are elongated, coarser, and often redder than uninfected buds. Sepals enlarge and sometimes differentiate into leaves. The petals of unfolding flowers are usually pinkish, wrinkled, and twisted, giving the appearance of a double bloom. The infected flowers do not produce berries. Infected rosettes and blossom clusters should be removed before they open, to prevent dispersal of the spores. Old floricanes should be removed and destroyed immediately after harvest. The removal of all wild blackberries and dewberries around the planting is also recommended. In areas where disease pressure is more severe both primocanes and floricanes may be cut to the ground immediately after harvest. The primocanes are then allowed to regrow from buds at the base. Chemical control starts at first bloom. Abound is the only fungicide currently labeled for Double blossom.

## Blackberry Double Blossom- *Cercospora rubi*



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Blackberry Double Blossom- *Cercospora rubi*



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## Hydrangea

Hydrangeas are among our most reliable shrubs for shade and partly shaded areas. They grow best in evenly moist, well-drained soil with a pH of 4.5-6.5. Hydrangea grows poorly in extremely sandy soils or extremely heavy, boggy soils. Most cultivars prefer afternoon shade. When planted with ideal conditions, they have few disease problems. However, they are prone to *Cercospora* leaf spot, caused by *Cercospora hydrangea*, during wet seasons, or when they are grown under overhead irrigation. Symptoms on big leaf varieties are small, circular purple to brown spots appearing first on lower leaves and spreading upward through the plant. The centers of the spots become tan to light gray with age, surrounded by a purple halo. Leaves with numerous lesions turn yellow and fall from the plant. Lesions on oak leaf hydrangea are more angular than circular. Good sanitation is important in controlling *Cercospora* leaf spot. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed from the planting. Hydrangea should be watered at ground level and the use of sprinklers avoided. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil, or myclobutanil, or thiophanate-methyl, or mancozeb, or azoxystrobin, give good results.

### Hydrangea *Cercospora* Leaf Spot-*Cercospora hydrangea*



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### Hydrangea *Cercospora* Leaf Spot-*Cercospora hydrangea*



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## Maple

Maples are subject to several leaf spot diseases. Phyllosticta Leaf Spot, caused by the fungus, *Phyllosticta minima*, causes unsightly lesions on leaves, but rarely causes defoliation. Symptoms are raised tan to dark brown leaf spots with reddish-purple borders. Young lesions may have a lighter center. The dark pimple like structures of the fungus may be seen using a hand lens. Older lesions may dry and fall out leaving a shot hole in the leaves. The disease over-winters on fallen leaves. In the spring spores are produced that are carried by wind and rain splash up to the new foliage. Sanitation is the most important tool in control of Phyllosticta Leaf Spot. Rake up and destroy all fallen leaves. Don't leave them on the ground over the winter. Although chemical control is usually not needed, small trees may be protected with applications of a fungicide containing chlorothalonil, copper, mancozeb, or thiophanate-methyl.: One at bud break, one when leaves are half expanded, and one when leaves are fully expanded.



**Maple Phyllosticta Leaf Spot-**  
*Phyllosticta minima*



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collection). Please send samples to us at the follow address:

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**Request for help from Dr. Robbins:**

Root knot nematode populations are needed for our Arkansas species study. I am a nematologist in the department of Plant Pathology in Fayetteville. My student and I are trying to amass populations of as many species of Root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne* sp.) as possible for species identification using molecular techniques. At present no root knot species in Arkansas have been identified using molecular technology. We are interested in receiving populations from home gardens, shrubs, flowers, trees and grasses. For samples we need about a pint of soil and feeder roots in a sealed plastic bag that is plainly identified by plant host, location (City County, physical address, collector and date of