



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.

Lettuce

Lettuce drop is caused by two species of *Sclerotinia*. *Sclerotinia minor* attacks lettuce stems and leaves in contact with the soil. The fungus causes a soft, brown, watery decay. The outer leaves wilt first, and then the entire plant collapses. White mycelium and small, black, irregularly shaped sclerotia form on the decayed plant parts. *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* causes the same symptoms on the lower parts of the plant, but produces spores that can also infect upper parts of the plant. Rotating to non-host crops, deep plowing to bury sclerotia, and applying Rovral 50WP after thinning help control Lettuce drop caused by *Sclerotinia minor*. The same controls apply for Lettuce drop caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, but fungicides should be started at the rosette stage.

Lettuce drop



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Sclerotia of *Sclerotinia minor*



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Ivy

English ivy is a very popular evergreen groundcover. It does very well in shaded areas, and is accepting of a wide variety of soils, including the acidic soils common in much of Arkansas. Anthracnose, caused by *Colletotrichum trichellum*, is a fungal disease of English Ivy often encountered in the landscape. Symptoms are circular to irregular dry, brown to reddish brown, or black spots near or on leaf margins. The lesions develop small black fruiting bodies easily seen with a hand lens. The symptoms resemble those of bacterial spot, but the bacterial lesions lack the black fruiting bodies. Ivy anthracnose can be devastating to stands of ivy under conditions favorable to the disease. Defoliation and shoot dieback are common. Good cultural practices are important in controlling anthracnose. Dead leaves and stems should be removed frequently. Avoid overhead irrigation, especially late in the day. Ornamental fungicides labeled for ivy are mancozeb, and copper compounds. Chlorothalonil is effective but has been reported to cause leaf distortion and spotting on some cultivars.



Ivy anthracnose



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Rose

The rose midge, *Dasineura rhodophaga* Coquillett (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) is an aggravating and damaging pest of roses. Rose midges are very small members of the fly family, difficult to see without magnification. The female lays her eggs on tender new rose shoots and buds in the spring after emerging from the soil where she over-wintered in the pupal state. The larvae hatch and feed on plant sap, causing the buds to

blacken, shrivel, and die. Heavy infestations will cause an otherwise healthy bush to never produce any flowers. The life cycle of the Rose midge can be as short as every two weeks, making control difficult. Insecticides containing Imidacloprid (Merit) or Cyfluthrin (Tempo) are effective at controlling this pest. Homeowners may use the granular insecticide Bayer Advanced Force Multi-Insect Killer. It should be applied in the spring when roses are beginning to leaf out. Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Spray should be applied every 10 days during the growing season.

Rose Midge damage



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Sherrie Smith University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Stubby-Root Nematodes (*Paratrichodorus* and *Trichodorus*) by Ronnie Bateman

http://www.aragriculture.org/nematodes/nematode_clinic.htm

The stubby-root nematode is detected in a high percentage of samples submitted to the Nematode Diagnostic Clinic each year. It is not generally considered to be too problematic in Arkansas but it is another one of the nematodes that are always around in the lawn, garden, row crops, fruit crops, etc. Like the other nematodes it gets its nourishment from the nutrients in the host plant and thus makes the plant more susceptible to other stress factors. When conditions are favorable in a given site the nematode itself can become quite damaging. It is considered to be the most damaging nematode to corn in Georgia and possibly the Carolinas.

Visual symptoms of damage from the stubby-root nematode are the typical drought-like symptoms seen with other nematodes. The root system will be shortened (stubby) and will not have as many secondary roots (Figure 1). In corn, symptoms may also include stunted plants, yellowing, plant death or symptoms of magnesium deficiency (Figure 2). Heavy infestation in corn will also result in small ears. This nematode is also a vector of the tobacco rattle virus (corky ringspot, Figure 3), and pea early browning virus.

Stubby-root nematodes prefer coarse-textured soils but are frequently detected in soybean fields in the rice producing areas of the state. It can also be detected deeper in the soil (8-16 inches) in higher numbers than most nematodes. With its really wide host range it is hard to manage this nematode with crop rotation. In severe cases nematicides can be used in row crops. Although both are susceptible, cotton and soybeans would be a better choice than corn in severely infested sites. Sweet potatoes and cucurbits would be better for infested areas in the home garden. Since this nematode is particularly fond of the grasses it would be to one's advantage to keep the desired crop free from grass and weeds.

The stubby-root nematode will probably never be a large-scale problem in Arkansas but in home garden where crop rotation is minimal and fields that are planted in corn on consecutive years there may be some spotty damage. A general nematode assay can determine if stubby-root nematodes are present in a site. For information on sampling for nematodes contact your local county agent or go to



Figure 1. Stubby-root damage on corn roots. Society of Nematologists



Figure 2. Magnesium Deficiency caused by Stubby-Root nematode



Figure 3. Corky Ringspot vectored by Stubby-root. University of Florida