UofA UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
Cooperative Extension Service
SPDN Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

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PLANT HEALTH CLINIC NEWS

Issue 7-April 5, 2010

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.

Oak

Phomopsis galls are caused by several species of Phomopsis in the Diaporthe group of fungi. They occur in hickories, maples, oaks, forsythia, fig, gardenia, jasmine, privet, rhododendron, elm, blueberry, *and* viburnum. Oaks are a common host, but hickory can also be heavily galled. Infections can be localized to a single tree, or groups of trees may be infected. Galls may eventually cause dieback or girdling of the stem that they are on, but usually does not kill the tree. They can be a tremendous nuisance in ornamental shrubs such as forsythia, in which twig dieback may occur. There is no chemical treatment for Phomopsis galls. Homeowners may prune them out and dispose of them, or choose to live with them. Phomopsis galls range in size from very small to gall masses larger than a basketball. Phomopsis galls may be easily mistaken for other types of galls. Gouty gall resembles Phomopsis, but is caused by a species of cyprinid wasp. Bacterial galls such as Agrobacterium tumefaciens look a lot like Phomopsis galls, but are usually not found as high in the tree canopy.

Forsythia Phomopsis Gall– ***Phomopsis spp.***

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Oak Phomopsis Gall –***Phomopsis spp.***

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Hickory Phomopsis Gall – *Phomopsis spp.*

Linda Haugen, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

Iris

Irises are one of our perennial harbingers of spring. Grown in well-drained soils with plenty of sun, they have few problems. However, iris occasionally has insect problems. A sample arrived at the Clinic with a Broad mite infestation. Broad mites are nearly microscopic insects. They are shaped like fat footballs, translucent and colorless to pale brown. Unlike spider mites, they have only four legs instead of six. These mites feed on many species of plants: African violet, ageratum, azalea, begonia, dahlia, gerbera, gloxinia, ivy, jasmine, impatiens, lantana, marigold, peperomia, snapdragon, verbena, zinnia, iris, apple, avocado, cantaloupe, castor, citrus, coffee, cotton, eggplant, grapes, guava, papaya, passion fruit, pear, potato, green beans, mango, tea, and tomato. Like other types of mites, Broad mites are sap feeders. They use their piercing mouthparts to attack the plant. The toxic saliva causes distortion, twisting, bronzing, or purpling, and stunting. . Note that damage can resemble herbicide or virus damage. Lateral buds are prone to breakage and abortion. Fine oil, insecticidal soaps, and Bayer Advanced Insect Control, are some of the products used for homeowner control. Hot water treatments may be used to control the mites without injuring the plants. Lower the plant into hot water (111°F) for 15 minutes.

Iris Broad mite damage – *Polyphagotarsonemus latus*

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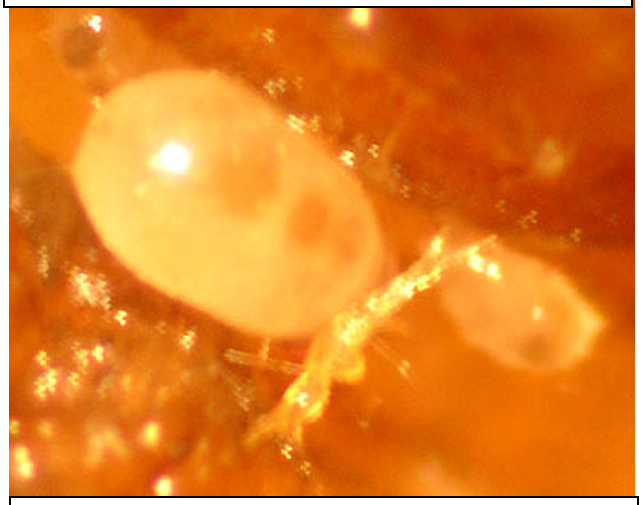
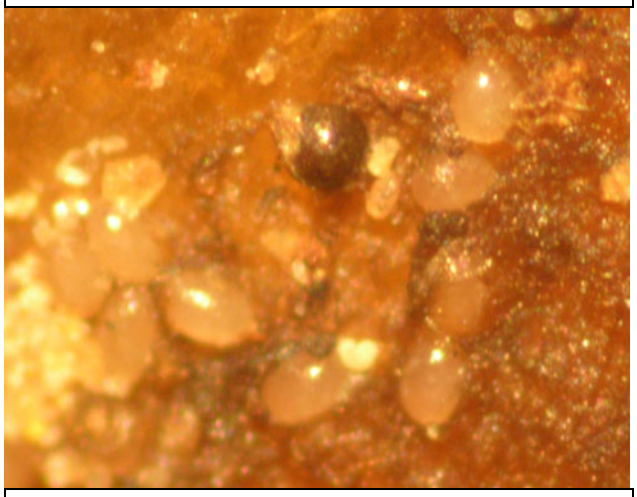


Broad mites –*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*



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Commercial greenhouses may use products such as Forbid or Thiodan, or Endosulfan, or Kelthane. Read labels for use on specific crops.

Cantaloupe Broad mite damage–*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*

David Riley, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.

Pepper Broad mite damage – *Polyphagotarsonemus latus*

David Riley, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.