



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.

Strawberry

Strawberries are most susceptible to Roundup damage in fall. Severe injury may occur if glyphosate gets on any part of the plants. Symptoms are yellowing, stunting, leaf distortion, browning, and death. Tips of leaves may be a darker green than the rest of the leaf surface. Hooded sprays or mop application is the safest method of application. Avoid getting the product on plastic as well. Runoff of glyphosate from the plastic can also damage strawberry plants. Do not apply within 14 days of harvest.

Strawberry Roundup damage



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Peach/nectarine

Once symptoms of Peach leaf curl are evident, it is too late to spray during the current season. Spores from the fungus *Taphrina deformans* overwinters on twigs and bud scales. Infection occurs at bud break early in the spring during cool, wet weather. Blister-like swellings, curling, thickening, puckering, and discoloration of the leaves are the first symptoms of Peach leaf curl. Affected areas may turn pink, red or yellow. In severe cases, defoliation occurs along with substantial yield loss. Peach leaf curl is easily controlled with one well-timed fungicide application in the fall after 90% of the leaves have dropped, or very early in the spring before the buds begin to swell. Chlorothalonil or copper sprays are effective. It is too late for chemical control this spring, but if only a few leaves are infected, they may be handpicked and destroyed to reduce inoculum levels.

Peach leaf curl-*Taphrina deformans*



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Peach leaf curl-*Taphrina deformans*



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Plum pockets-*Taphrina communis*



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Plum

Another species of *Taphrina* attacks plums, where it is known as Plum pockets, or Bladder pockets, or Mock plums. *Taphrina communis* can attack leaves, stems, and fruit, but we see it most often in the clinic on fruit. Symptoms appear about 6-8 weeks after budbreak. Small fruit become thickened and distorted, enlarging to as much as ten times their normal size. The centers are spongy or hollow without pits. The deformed fruit may have a reddish or grayish appearance at first, but eventually turns brown or black and falls prematurely from the tree. Infected leaves and shoots have symptoms similar to Peach leaf curl symptoms, although generally the leaf symptoms are not as noticeable on plum as they are on peach and nectarine. There are cultivars with resistance to Plum pockets. The same chemical controls are used for *Taphrina* infections in plums as are used to control Peach leaf curl.



Forsythia

Species of the fungus *Phomopsis* can cause galls on woody plants such as Maple, Hickory, Fig, Forsythia, Gardenia, Jasmine, Privet, Oak, Rhododendron, Elm, Viburnum, and others. Forsythia is very susceptible to *Phomopsis* galls. Gall symptoms on Forsythia appear as tight globular clusters which vary in size from ¼ to more than an inch in diameter. The galls are often clustered along a *Forsythia* stem, eventually causing twig dieback. Control consists of pruning out the galls and removing them from the planting. Chemicals are mostly ineffective. Severely infected forsythia may be pruned to the ground.

Forsythia Phomopsis Gall- *Phomopsis* spp.



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