



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.

Pepper

Damping off is a term used to describe the sudden wilt and death of seedlings. Several pathogens are associated with damping off, including pythium spp. Pythium infection occurs in wet, cool, poorly-drained soils, most often in association with overwatering. Roots become slimy, brown-black, and rotted. In severe infections, the lower section of the stem becomes slimy, black, and rotted. Plants become stunted, yellowed, and die. Ridomil Gold SL is labeled for control of pythium in pepper fields. However, the fungicide will not save severely affected plants, nor will it be effective if soil conditions remain saturated.

Pepper Pythium damping off- *Pythium* spp.



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Lilac

Lilacs are starting to bloom all over the state, and they smell divinely. For the most part lilacs are very easy to grow. They perform best when planted in full sun in well-drained but moist soil. Occasionally however, The Plant Health Clinic receives a sample of lilac afflicted



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with Bacterial blight, caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Syringae*. Bacterial blight is often associated with plants that have been stressed by drought, improper fertilization, poor site choices, and/or have been wounded. The white flowered cultivars seem particularly susceptible, although all varieties can get the disease. Symptoms begin as olive-green water soaked spots that become brown to black water-soaked areas on leaves and stems. Blackened growing tips wilt and often form shepherd's crooks that resemble fire blight. Diseased plant parts should be immediately removed and destroyed. Prune only when the weather is dry. Dip pruners in a 10% bleach solution between cuts. Copper fungicides applied at bud break in the spring are thought to reduce disease incidence. Spray three times at 7-10 day intervals in the spring as leaves are unfolding. Spray again once in the fall after leaves fall.

**Lilac Bacterial blight-
shepherd's crook-*Pseudomonas*
syringae pv. *syringae***



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**Lilac Bacterial blight-*Pseudomonas*
syringae pv. *syringae***



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Sycamore

Sycamore anthracnose, caused by the fungus *Apiognomonina venter*, is the most serious disease of sycamore. Black to brown necrotic areas occur along veins of newly emerging leaves. The necrotic areas eventually enlarge and cover the entire leaf. Adjoining twigs may be killed back 8 to 10 inches. Sunken cankers may develop on the trunk and main branches of the tree. During cool wet weather in the spring these cankers become active and produce spores that infect new leaf buds. If the cankers girdle the branch, death of the branch occurs. Repeated twig death results in a witches broom type of growth, with a mix of dead and live twigs in clusters. Treatment begins in the spring as buds begin to swell. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil, or thiophanate methyl or copper should be applied at 7-14 day intervals as long as cool wet weather persists. It is difficult to treat large trees. Planting resistant cultivars and species is the best option. The American sycamore is extremely susceptible.



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Susceptibility varies among cultivars of the London plane tree with, Bloodgood, Columbia and Liberty having resistance to anthracnose.

Sycamore Anthracnose- *Apiognomonia venta*



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Sycamore Anthracnose- *Apiognomonia venta*



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Peach and pear

Growers should beware of getting too close to valuable fruit trees and small fruit crops when applying herbicides. Herbicides such as Roundup and 2,4-D are very harmful to non-target plants, and can drift long distances under windy conditions. The injured plants will usually not produce normal fruits.

Roundup damage on blackberry



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2,4-D damage on peach



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2,4-D damage on pear



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2,4-D damage on peach



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