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CLINIC NEWS

Issue 15, June 6, 2016

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.

Mulberry

Homeowners are sometimes startled by the odd appearance of some of the fruit on their mulberry tree. Popcorn disease of Mulberry fruit is caused by the fungus, *Ciboria carunculoides*. This disease only affects the fruit. Initially the carpels of the fruit swell and remain a greenish color instead of ripening. The enlarged carpels of the fruit are replaced by, hardened sclerotia of the fungus, thus giving the disease the name of Popcorn disease. White mulberry varieties and hybrids are more susceptible than red or black mulberries. This disease is not considered economically important on ornamental mulberries as they are non-fruiting varieties as a rule. Popcorn disease can be a problem, however, on mulberries propagated for fruit production and can cause high yield losses. Sanitation is the best control option for homeowners. Clean up all fallen fruit and any diseased fruit still on the tree and remove from the planting.

Mulberry popcorn disease-

Ciboria carunculoides



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Mulberry popcorn disease-

Ciboria carunculoides



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Orchardgrass

Brown stripe, caused by the fungus *Cercosporidium graminis* (*Scolecotrichum graminis*), has been reported on over 140 species of grasses and cereals including Orchardgrass, Fescue, Timothy, Bluegrass, and Bentgrass, wheat, oats, and rye among others. Symptoms begin between leaf veins and progress towards the leaf tips as oblong brown lesions. The spore producing bodies of the fungus may be seen within the lesions as parallel rows of tiny black to gray dots. Although Brown stripe can develop throughout the growing season, cool, wet conditions in spring and fall are the most favorable for disease development. Spring infections can result in the premature loss of leaves as



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they die from the tips downward. Forage quality and quantity as well as seed production and quality and quantity may be seriously impacted. There are no chemical controls recommended. Growers may practice controlled burning of dead grass in early spring. This reduces severity in the following crop. Heavy fall grazing also helps reduce the amount of fungal inoculum. The excessive use of quick acting nitrogen fertilizers, can contribute to the severity of Brown stripe. Adequate levels of potassium and phosphorous are essential. If possible rotate at least two years with a non-grass crop. Plow under all debris at the end of the season and practice good weed control.

Orchardgrass Brown stripe- *Cercosporidium graminis* (*Scolecotrichum graminis*)



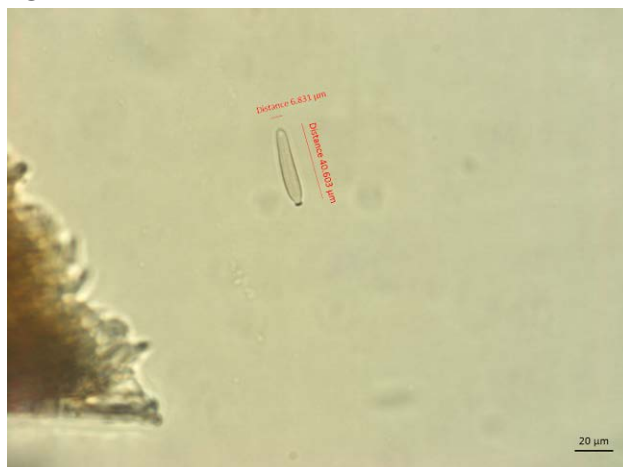
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Orchardgrass Brown stripe- *Cercosporidium graminis* (*Scolecotrichum graminis*)



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Orchardgrass Brown stripe- *Cercosporidium graminis* (*Scolecotrichum graminis*)



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Dogwood

Dogwood **Spot** anthracnose, caused by *Elsinoe corni*, is an annoying fungal leaf spot disease of the bracts and leaves of ornamental dogwoods. Spot anthracnose must not be confused with Dogwood anthracnose, caused by *Discula destructiva*, as Spot anthracnose does not kill



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branches or trees. Spot anthracnose attacks dogwood blooms and leaves in the spring, particularly during prolonged wet weather. White cultivars appear more susceptible than pink ones. Symptoms are uniform, tiny circular lesions with purple borders and almost white centers. The center of the lesions falls out later in the season giving a shot hole effect. In wet seasons the lesions often become so numerous that leaves or bracts may become puckered and distorted. Severe infection may prevent buds from opening. Spot anthracnose may be controlled with Daconil or Mancozeb. Spraying should begin when buds begin to open and be repeated when the bracts have fallen, four weeks after bracts have fallen, and again in late summer after the flower buds for next season have formed.

Dogwood Spot anthracnose- *Elsinoe corni*



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Dogwood Spot anthracnose on bracts- *Elsinoe corni*



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Dogwood Spot anthracnose- *Elsinoe corni*



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Blackberry

Spur blight, caused by *Didymella applanata*, is a fungal disease that can attack both raspberry and blackberry, with raspberries are especially vulnerable. The disease can be devastating in overgrown and weed-infested plantings, particularly if excessive nitrogen has been applied. Brown V-shaped lesions with broad yellow margins occur on infected leaves of primocanes. The infection then spreads from the leaf into the petiole and into the node. Affected leaves are usually shed. A



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spreading, dark, chestnut brown lesion develops below the node and around axillary buds. Silver or gray lesions with small, black pseudothecia and later pycnidia develop during the winter. Cane botrytis causes similar symptoms on primocanes, but the lesions are light brown. It is not unusual to find plantings with Spur blight problems to also have anthracnose, cane blight, and botrytis diseases as well. Diseased canes should be removed from the planting immediately. Lime sulfur applied during the dormant season is highly recommended. Cabrio, Abound, and Pristine, are effective if used before the disease becomes severe. Healthy plantings are less susceptible.

Blackberry Spur blight- *Didymella applanata*



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Blackberry Spur blight- *Didymella applanata*



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Request for help from Dr. Robbins:

Root knot nematode populations are needed for our Arkansas species study. I



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

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