



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Blackberry

Rosette or Double Blossom, caused by the fungus *Cercospora rubi*, is a serious disease of many cultivars of blackberries. Reduced yields, poor quality fruit, and cane death may result. Buds on primocanes become infected in early summer at bloom. In the next spring season following the initial infection, a proliferation (witches-broom) of shoots occurs at the infected bud site. Infected shoots are usually smaller than normal and have pale green foliage that later turns bronze. Unopened flower buds are elongated, coarser, and often redder than uninfected buds. Sepals enlarge and sometimes differentiate into leaves. The petals of unfolding flowers are usually pinkish, wrinkled, and twisted, giving the appearance of a double bloom. The infected flowers do not produce berries. To prevent dispersal of the spores, infected rosettes and blossom clusters should be removed before they open. Old floricanes should be removed and destroyed immediately after harvest. The removal of all wild blackberries and dewberries around the planting is also recommended. In areas where disease pressure is more severe, both primocanes and floricanes may be cut to the ground immediately after harvest. The

primocanes are then allowed to regrow from buds at the base. Chemical control starts at first bloom. Abound is the only fungicide currently labeled for Double Blossom.

### Blackberry Double Blossom- *Cercospora rubi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### Blackberry Double Blossom- *Cercospora rubi*



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## Blackberry Double Blossom- *Cercospora rubi*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
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## Hydrangea

Hydrangeas are among our most reliable shrubs for shade and partly shaded areas. They grow best in evenly moist, well-drained soil with a pH of 4.5-6.5. Hydrangeas grow poorly in extremely sandy soils or extremely heavy, boggy soils. Most cultivars prefer afternoon shade. When planted with ideal conditions, they have few disease problems. However, they are prone to Cercospora Leaf Spot, caused by *Cercospora hydrangeae*, during wet seasons or when they are grown under overhead irrigation. Symptoms on big-leaf varieties are small, circular, purple to brown spots appearing first on lower leaves and spreading upward through the plant. The centers of the spots become tan to light gray with age, surrounded by a purple halo. Leaves with numerous lesions turn yellow and fall from the plant. Lesions on oak leaf hydrangea are more angular than circular. Good sanitation is important in controlling Cercospora Leaf Spot. All fallen leaves should be raked up and removed from the planting. A hydrangea should be watered at ground level, and the use of sprinklers should be avoided. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil, or myclobutanil, or thiophanate-methyl, or mancozeb, or azoxystrobin give good results.



Sherrie Smith

## Hydrangea Cercospora Leaf Spot-*Cercospora hydrangeae*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Hydrangea Cercospora Leaf Spot-*Cercospora hydrangeae*



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## Maple

Maples are subject to several leaf spot diseases. *Phyllosticta* Leaf Spot, caused by the fungus, *Phyllosticta minima*, causes unsightly

lesions on leaves but rarely causes defoliation. Symptoms are raised tan to dark brown leaf spots with reddish-purple borders. Young lesions may have a lighter center. The dark, pimple-like structures of the fungus may be seen using a hand lens. Older lesions may dry and fall out, leaving a shot hole in the leaves. The disease over-winters on fallen leaves. In the spring, spores are produced that are carried by wind and rain splash up to the new foliage. Sanitation is the most important tool in control of *Phyllosticta* Leaf Spot. Rake up and destroy all fallen leaves. Don't leave them on the ground over the winter. Although chemical control is usually not needed, small trees may be protected with applications of a fungicide containing chlorothalonil, copper, mancozeb, or thiophanate-methyl. Use one at bud break, one when leaves are half expanded, and one when leaves are fully expanded.

## Maple Leaf Spot-*Phyllosticta minima*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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.

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