



Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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Mulberry

Ornamental weeping mulberries are grown for their small size and interesting shape. Fruiting mulberries are grown around the world for their fruit, for lumber, and for silkworm production. The Plant Health Clinic receives samples of mulberry leaves at this time of year with fungal leaf spots caused by either *Cercospora mori* or *Cercospora moricola*. The beginning symptoms of this disease are small dark spots in early spring that gradually increase in size through the growing season. The spots gradually become circular with the center appearing as a grayish white to tan spot with dark brown margins. Spores develop in the lesions during periods of wet weather and high humidity. Severe infections cause defoliation which can weaken a tree already under stress. Weeping mulberries are small enough to be easily sprayed. Clean up all fallen leaves and spray with an ornamental fungicide such as Spectracide Immunox (myclobutanil), or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide (propiconazole), or Green Light Fung-Away (triadimefon), or Fertilome Liquid Fungicide (chlorothalonil).

Mulberry Leaf Spot-*Cercospora mori*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Mulberry Leaf Spot-*Cercospora mori*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Coreopsis Beetle larva-*Phaedon desotonis*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Coreopsis

Phaedon desotonis is a member of the Chrysomelidae family of leaf beetles. It has a small, solid-colored, greenish-purplish body with a metallic sheen. Both the adult beetles and their dark-colored larvae feed on the leaves of coreopsis. A heavy load of beetles will rapidly strip the foliage off a good-sized plant and then chew the remaining stems to the ground. Coreopsis plants can be decimated before the grower is even aware there is an insect problem. Handpicking adult beetles and crushing them is an option. Insecticides containing acetamiprid (Ortho Rose and Flower Insect Killer), or carbaryl (Sevin), or imidacloprid may be used. Do not spray insecticides during the day when bees are foraging.

Coreopsis Beetle adult-*Phaedon desotonis*



Photo by Mike Quinn, TexasEnto.net



Coreopsis Beetle damage-*Phaedon desotonis*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

Hollyhock

Every year, at this time, the Plant Health Clinic receives samples of hollyhock covered with rust, caused by the fungus *Puccinia malvacearum*. All *Malva* and hollyhock species are susceptible. A common *Malva* weed, *Malva pusilla*, serves as a reservoir for the disease. A noticeable symptom is the large numbers of yellow to orange spots on the upper surface of the leaves. The undersides of the leaves become rather dramatically covered with large orange to brown pustules. Heavily infected plants may also have the pustules on stems and green flower parts.

Left untreated, the disease can become severe, resulting in most of the leaves being killed. Good sanitation is critical to control Hollyhock Rust. Infected leaves should be removed as soon as they are noticed. In the fall, plants should be cut to the ground and burned or otherwise disposed of, along with any leaves left on the ground. Fungicides should be applied early in the spring at new growth. Products containing mancozeb, or myclobutanil, or chlorothalonil (such as Daconil) should be applied through early July.

Hollyhock Rust (leaf top)-*Puccinia malvacearum*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension



Hollyhock Rust (leaf underside)-
Puccinia malvacearum



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension

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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Hollyhock Rust (leaf underside)-
Puccinia malvacearum



Photo by Neal Mays, University of Arkansas Cooperative
Extension