Seiridium Canker

Important diseases: Seiridium canker of Cypress and Leyland Cypress

Some references refer to Seiridium canker by older fungal names such as *Coryneum* canker or *Monochaetia* canker. Within the past several years, *Seiridium* canker has become an increasing problem on Leyland cypress in the Southeast.

Leyland cypress trees and branches infected with *Seiridium* are yellowish at first then turn brown to gray as the branch dies. The fungus infects through wounds or natural openings during periods of drought stress. Infected sites are sunken, reddish in color and ooze sap profusely. Individual cankers are long and thin and may be numerous along a branch. Collectively, the cankers interfere with water flow through the branch causing the branch to possibly wilt and die.

Spores of *Seiridium* are produced within dark, disk or cushion-shaped acervuli. Acervuli are produced beneath epidermal cells and often rupture through the epidermis to reveal darkly pigmented spores on short, slender conidiophores. It looks very similar to *Pestalotia acervuli*.

Conidia (spores) are several-celled with usually four darkly pigmented internal cells and clear, pointed end cells. Conidia are elongated to fusoid (foot-ball shaped) with a single apical appendage on each end cell. Spores may be confused with *Pestalotia*.