



HOMEOWNER PLANT DISEASE CLINIC REPORT

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As the summer flies by, the diagnostic clinic in Athens is staying busy with plant disease samples. The bulk of the samples received and processed are Homeowner, followed by Commercial Turf. About half of the homeowner samples received are digital and the other half are physical.

As you may notice in this report or others in the past, diagnosing samples based on images alone is often times quite difficult or impossible. Therefore, it is very important to provide both high quality images, as well as a variety of images. This should include images of the symptomatic plant in the landscape (both at a distance and close up) as well as under the dissecting and compound scopes, if possible. It is also essential to realize that for some plant problems a physical sample will be necessary to accurately determine the cause of the problem. This is what should be stressed to homeowners that come into your county offices. And yes, there is a \$10 processing fee for that homeowner sample.

Just in case you missed the email, I have completed and posted the 2007 Annual Plant Disease Clinic Summary and you can view that report here:
<http://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/extension/AnnualPDCReports.html>.

The disease of the month for July will be wet rot on squash caused by the fungal pathogen, *Choanephora cucurbitarum*.

July 2008 Homeowner Samples

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Bartow	Aucuba	Unable to determine	DDDI
Bartow	Maple	Leaf spot (<i>Phyllosticta</i> sp.)	DDDI
Berrien	Centipede	ETRI (Ectotrophic root infecting fungi) – roots	Physical
Berrien	Centipede	ETRI (Ectotrophic root infecting fungi) – roots	Physical
Bibb	Vinca	Stem, petiole, & leaf blight – <i>Phytophthora</i> sp.	Physical

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Bibb	Jasmine	Root rot (<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp.)	Both
Candler	Unknown	Slime mold (<i>Diachea leucopodia</i>)	DDDI
Carroll	Daylily	Unknown – possibly fungal or viral	DDDI
Carroll	Camellia	Possible drought stress	DDDI
Carroll	Camellia	Possible virus	DDDI
Carroll	Azalea	No disease – drought &/or insect damage	DDDI
Clarke	Zoysia	Unable to determine	DDDI
Clarke	Zoysia	Unable to determine	DDDI
Clarke	Zoysia	Unable to determine	DDDI
Clarke	Tomato	Herbicide or virus	DDDI
Clarke	Zoysia	Unable to determine	DDDI
Clarke	Zoysia	Unable to determine	DDDI
Coweta	Boxwoods	Leaf spots (<i>Volutella buxi</i>) & (<i>Macrophoma</i> sp.)	Both
Decatur	Bradford Pear	Fire Blight (<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>)	Physical
DeKalb	Zoysia	Large Patch (<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>); cultural – thatch & mowing height	Physical
Dougherty	Centipede	Chinch bugs; cultural problems – thatch	Both
Douglas	Hydrangea & Forsythia	Hydrangea – no disease – drought stress; Forsythia – Powdery mildew	Physical
Elbert	Leyland Cypress	Possible Seiridium canker or drought stress	DDDI
Elbert	Yellow Squash	Unknown – possible vine borer or bacterial wilt	DDDI
Elbert	Orchid – Phalaenopsis	No disease found	Both
Emanuel	Blackberry	Possible Cane blight	Physical
Emanuel	Blackberry	Anthraxnose (<i>Elsinoe</i> sp.)	Physical
Emanuel	Blackberry	No disease	Physical
Emanuel	Carpetgrass	Insufficient sample	Physical
Fannin	Clematis	Fungal leaf spot	DDDI
Fayette	Tomato	Root knot Nematode (<i>Meloidogyne</i> sp.)	Physical
Fayette	Bell pepper	Possible herbicide damage & Bacterial spot (<i>Xanthomonas</i> sp.)	Physical
Fayette	Emerald Zoysia	Cultural – excessive thatch, overwatering, ETRI fungi – roots	Physical

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Fayette	Zoysia	Cultural – thatch & mowing height; Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Franklin	Bean	Bean Common Mosaic Virus – black root	Physical
Grady	Crape myrtle	Unknown – possible planting error	DDDI
Gwinnett	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Possible Bacterial spot	DDDI
Gwinnett	Angel Trumpet vine	Possible virus or herbicide damage	DDDI
Gwinnett	Leyland Cypress	No disease; Minor scale	Both
Gwinnett	Tomato	Possible TSWV	DDDI
Gwinnett	Pole Beans	Crown rot	DDDI
Gwinnett	Tomato	Possible TSWV	DDDI
Gwinnett	Bermuda	Large patch (<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp.); cultural – hard compacted clay soils	Physical
Gwinnett	Green pepper	Possible Bacterial spot	DDDI
Gwinnett	Tomato	Possible TSWV	DDDI
Haralson	Maple	Leaf spot (<i>Phyllosticta</i> sp.)	Physical
Haralson	Bermuda	Large Patch (<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>); ETRI fungi – roots	Physical
Harris	Japanese Maple	No disease – insect damage	DDDI
Harris	Hosta	No disease – sun burn damage	DDDI
Harris	Plum	Black Knot (<i>Dibotryon morbosum</i>)	DDDI
Harris	Zoysia	Unable to determine	DDDI
Harris	Emerald Zoysia	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Henry	Tomato	Virus or Herbicide damage	DDDI
Henry	Japanese Maple	Leaf spot (<i>Phyllosticta</i> sp.)	DDDI
Henry	Bermuda	No disease – cultural	Physical
Henry	Zoysia	Large Patch (<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>); cultural – thatch	Both
Henry	Zoysia	Cultural problems – thatch, mowing height, irrigation; ETRI fungi – roots	Both
Henry	Magnolia	Burn	DDDI
Henry	Centipede	Possible <i>Pythium</i>	DDDI
Henry	Tomato	Root knot nematode (<i>Meloidogyne</i> sp.)	Both
Henry	Pepper	Bacterial spot (<i>Xanthomonas</i> sp.)	DDDI

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Henry	Squash	Possible fungal leaf spot (<i>Cladosporium</i> sp.)	DDDI
Henry	Centipede	Suspect Take-all root rot – minimal live plant material	Both
Jackson	Unknown	No disease – cultural	Physical
Jackson	Unknown	No disease – cultural	Physical
Jackson	Centipede	Deteriorated sample – resubmit	Physical
Jenkins	Magnolia	Fungal leaf spot	DDDI
Johnson	Apple	No disease – cold damage	Physical
Lamar	Bermuda	No disease	Physical
Lamar	Bermuda	ETRI fungi – roots	Physical
Lee	Hybrid tea Roses	Virus or herbicide damage	DDDI
Lee	Squash	Fruit rot (<i>Choanephora</i> sp.)	DDDI
Liberty	Camellia	No disease – scale insects	Physical
Liberty	Thornless Blackberry	Unable to determine	DDDI
Lumpkin	Leyland Cypress	Possible Seiridium canker (<i>Seiridium</i> sp.)	DDDI
Macon	Centipede	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Monroe	Tomato	Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV)	Physical
Monroe	St. Augustine	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>) & Large Patch (<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>)	Both
Monroe	Plum/Grape	Scorch	DDDI
Morgan	Boxwood	No disease – insect and/or nutritional	Physical
Morgan	Peach	Bacterial spot (<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>pruni</i>)	Physical
Morgan	Plum	Unable to determine	DDDI
Morgan	St. Augustine	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>); Chinch bugs; thatch	Both
Morgan	St. Augustine	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Both
Muscogee	Zoysia	No disease – cultural	Physical
Muscogee	St. Augustine	No disease – cultural – compacted soils	Physical
Muscogee	Emerald Zoysia	No disease – cultural	Physical
Newton	Fescue	No disease – cultural	Physical
Newton	Raspberry	No disease	Physical
Newton	Cucumber, squash, cabbage	No disease	Physical
Newton	Zoysia	Cultural – thatch, dry, Rust; ETRI fungi – roots	Physical
Paulding	Loblolly pine	Unknown – possible slime mold	DDDI

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Pickens	American Boxwood	No disease – oedema	DDDI
Pickens	Tomato	Possible Late Blight (<i>Phytophthora</i> sp.)	DDDI
Polk	Zoysia	ETRI fungi – roots	Physical
Richmond	St. Augustine	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Richmond	St. Augustine	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Richmond	Zoysia	Possible Fairy ring	Physical
Rockdale	Zoysia	No disease – cultural	Physical
Schley	Dogwood	Possible herbicide damage	DDDI
Tattnall	Centipede	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Taylor	Tomato	Zinc toxicity & bacterial spot	DDDI
Thomas	Carolina Sapphire – Arizona Cypress	Unable to determine	DDDI
Walker	Daylily	Possible rust	DDDI
Ware	Centipede	Take-all root rot (<i>G. graminis</i>)	Physical
Whitfield	Fescue mix	No disease – cultural problems	Physical
Whitfield	Water Oak	Oak Leaf Blister (<i>Taphrina</i> sp.) & Stems – <i>Lecanium</i> scale?	Both
Whitfield	Evergreen shrub	Unknown – possible fungal canker	DDDI
Worth	Lawn & rose bush	Mushroom conk – unknown	DDDI
Worth	Tomato	No disease – blossom end rot	DDDI
Worth	Bradford pear	Unknown – possible fire blight	Physical
Worth	Weeping willow	No disease	Physical
Worth	Holly	No disease	Physical
Worth	Maple tree	Unknown – old wounds	Physical
Worth	Bradford pear	Unknown	DDDI
Worth	Bradford pear	Nutritional	DDDI
Total samples (mid-June to mid-July) = 116			
DDDI = 53 Physical = 50 Both = 13			

WET ROT on SQUASH

Causal organism: *Choanephora cucurbitarum*

Common names: Whiskers rot, blossom end rot, blossom blight

Hosts: Squash, Pumpkin, Okra, Snap Bean, and Southern pea

Conditions favoring disease: Warm, wet weather (high humidity) – very destructive under these conditions

Symptoms/signs: (see image)

- On fruit & blossoms, fuzzy, black/white fungal growth – resembles whiskers and/or a pincushion with black-headed pins
- Affects flowers, flower stalks, immature fruit – infection starts on blossom end of fruit
- Water-soaked fruit & soft rot develops
- Entire fruit can rot in a 24 to 48 hour period of time

Survival: On diseased plant material; spreads in spring by wind, insects, rain & infects new blossoms

Management:

- Choose well-drained locations in the garden
- Sanitation – cleaning up diseased/dying plant material
- Avoid wetting the foliage & fruit – use drip irrigation when possible
- Increase air circulation around plants
- No chemical controls available – impractical because blossoms open daily and would need to be protected continuously



www.invasive.org – David Langston (photographer)