THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

# October/November 2008

# HOMEOWNER PLANT DISEASE CLINIC REPORT

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Another year is steadily winding down in the plant disease clinic. Due to the decline in the number of samples submitted during late fall/early winter, I decided to combine the disease clinic reports for October and November. So sample numbers included below in the table of submitted samples is for both months.

The disease of the month(s) is **white spot on turnips** caused by the fungal pathogen, ***Pseudocercosporella capsellae***. ENJOY!

## October/November 2008 Homeowner Samples

| County | Plant | Common Name of Disease (Pathogen) | Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bartow | Weeping willow tree | Possible fungal leaf spot | DDDI |
| Brantley | Blueberry – Southern highbush | No disease found | Both |
| Camden | English Ivy | Root rot (*Pythium* sp.) & cultural – overwatering | Physical |
| Camden | Soft touch Holly | Unable to determine – plants dead | Both |
| Coweta | Maple | Possible tree cricket damage | Physical |
| Coweta | Arborvitae | No disease found – likely drought stress | Physical |
| Coweta | Turnips | Fungal leaf spot – either *Cercospora* or White spot | DDDI |
| Dougherty | Oak (Asian) | Algal leaf spot (*Cephaleuros virescens*) | Physical |
| Dougherty | Japanese maple | No disease found | Physical |
| Douglas | Fungal growth on grass | Possible slime mold – deteriorated sample | Physical |
| Fayette | Unknown | Unable to determine | DDDI |
| Fayette | St. Augustine | Unable to determine | DDDI |

| County | Plant | Common Name of Disease (Pathogen) | Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical |
|---|---|---|---|
| Floyd | Turnips | Possible *Cercospora* leaf spot | DDDI |
| Glynn | Lemon | Possible scale insect damage | Both |
| Grady | Leyland cypress | Tip blight (*Sphaeropsis* sp.) & insect damage – bagworms? | Physical |
| Grady | Lemon & grapefruit | Possible Melanose | Physical |
| Gwinnett | Zoysia | Cultural stress/damage | Physical |
| Henry | Bermuda | Unable to determine - fungal growth | DDDI |
| Henry | Rose | No disease found – possible burn | Both |
| Henry | Otto Luken laurel | Cultural – site problem or planting depth; root rot (*Pythium* sp.) | Physical |
| Henry | Azalea | No disease found – resubmit additional plant tissue | Both |
| Houston | Dianthus | Root rots (*Pythium*, *Phytopthora*, & *Rhizoctonia* spp.) | Physical |
| Houston | Pomegranate | No disease found | Physical |
| Jasper | Japanese magnolia | Possible Sooty Mold | DDDI |
| Jasper | Mixed bermuda | Possible fairy ring (Clamp connection fungi) | Physical |
| Lee | Jasmine | Unable to determine | DDDI |
| Lowndes | Coleus | Aerial/web blight (*Rhizoctonia solani*) | Both |
| Meriwether | Turnips | White spot (*Pseudocercosporella capsellae*) | Physical |
| Monroe | Turnips | Possible *Cercospora* leaf spot or White Spot | DDDI |
| Muscogee | Centipede | Take all root rot (*GGG)* & Large patch (*R.solani*) | Physical |
| Pierce | Centipede | Take all root rot (*GGG*) | Physical |
| Putnam | Blue spruce | Possible drought stress | Physical |
| Rabun | Zoysia | Dollar Spot (*Sclerotinia homeocarpa*) | Physical |
| Randolph | Italian Cyprus & Hollywood Juniper | Possible fungal cankers/disease | DDDI |
| Randolph | Bradford pear | No disease – likely environmental | DDDI |
| Rockdale | Zoysia | Possible fairy ring (Clamp connection fungi) | Physical |
| Schley | St. Augustine | Possible Large patch (*R.* | DDDI |

| County | Plant | Common Name of Disease (Pathogen) | Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *solani*) | |
| Schley | St. Augustine | Possible Large patch (*R. solani*) | DDDI |
| Sumter | Buckeye | Likely physiological scorch | DDDI |
| Ware | Winged Elm Tree | Powdery Mildew (*Oidium* sp.) | Physical |
| Whitfield | Turnips | Possible *Cercospora* leaf spot | DDDI |
| Whitfield | Bermuda grass sod | Take all root rot (*GGG)* & Large patch (*R.solani*) | Both |
| Worth | St. Augustine | Large patch (*R. solani*) | Physical |
| **Total samples (October – November) = 43<br>DDDI = 15 Physical = 21 Both = 7** | | | |

# White Spot on Turnips

White spot on turnips has been very prevalent this fall. The disease is caused by the fungal pathogen, *Pseudocercosporella capsellae*.

Symptoms of the disease include: circular spots with gray, brown, or nearly paper-white centers with slightly darkened margins – see DDDI image below. Spots form on the cotyledons, leaves, and petioles. Leaf spots (5 to 10 mm in diameter) can cover the entire leaf surface. This causes infected foliage to turn yellow and drop prematurely. Seedlings can be killed if/when the disease is severe.



Cool temperatures (55 to 64 degrees F) and excessive moisture favor disease development of this pathogen, similar to most fungal leaf spot pathogens. Although this pathogen can survive in the seed, its' most common mode of survival is in volunteer plants

and weeds. In terms of management, the following can be done to prevent infection and/or spread of the pathogen:

- ✓ Remove cruciferous weeds and any volunteer turnip and mustard plants
- ✓ Rotate crops
- ✓ Avoid overhead irrigation
- ✓ Improve soil drainage – reduce excess moisture
- ✓ Sanitation – remove infected plant debris and discard
- ✓ Apply copper fungicides to prevent spread of the disease to uninfected plants