



Greenhouse TPM/IPM Weekly Report
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Central Maryland Research and Education Center

From: Stanton Gill, Regional Specialist and Karen Rane, Plant Pathologist
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John Speaker, Independent IPM Scout

May 2, 2008

Heuchera Rust

Karen Rane, Director, Plant Diagnostic Lab

We received a coralsbells infected with Heuchera rust this week. Initial symptoms of this disease are small, pinpoint depressions on the leaf upper surface, and small gall-like protrusions on the underside of the leaf. These protrusions, called pustules, contain thousands of orange spores. As the disease progresses, necrotic lesions may form, and the infected tissue may fall out, giving a shot-hole appearance to the leaves. The fungus, *Puccinia heucherae*, is an autoecious rust, which means that it only requires one host to complete its life cycle. Heuchera and Saxifraga are the only reported hosts of this pathogen.



Pustules on underside of leaf

Sanitation: Spores are dispersed by air movement, and will continue to cause infections on new leaves, so removal of infected plants is an important part of disease management. Place infected plants in plastic bags to avoid distributing spores while carrying plants out of the greenhouse or nursery block. Since the disease can be introduced to an area on infected plant material, it is wise to inspect new shipments to make sure they are free of rust symptoms.

Controls: Fungicide applications can help protect uninfected foliage. Effective fungicides for rust diseases on ornamentals include sterol inhibitors (Banner Maxx, Systhane, Strike), mancozeb (Dithane), chlorothalonil (Daconil), and strobilurins (Heritage, Cygnus). As always, use these fungicides according to label instructions.

More on Root Aphids

We received Sedum, Aster, and Vernonia samples last week with root aphids. We put out a call for comments on control of root aphids and Jeff Dobbs of OHP sent in a response. He suggested applying imidacloprid (Marathon) in a high volume of water and possibly adding a wetting agent to penetrate the edge of the rootball where the aphids are found.

Here is Jeff's recommended rate and application method:

“You may want to look at increasing your drench volume. We have drenched Marathon II for root mealybug (should also work for root aphids) using 1.7 oz in 150 gallons of water and putting on 32 fl oz for a 5 gallon container. This high volume of water gets the material onto the sides of the rootball. Another thought may be using a wetting agent to get dispersion throughout the container.”



Root Aphid on Aster

New Pest on Ornamental Grasses?

We received a *Panicum virgatum* ‘Dallas Blues’ sample last week with white wax all over the roots from the same operation that was having problems with root aphids on their Aster and Vernonia. At first glance, we assumed that root aphids were causing the damage. However, the insects found on the ornamental grass were much larger and faster-moving.

We sent a photo to Gaye Williams at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Without having a physical sample, she was only able to give a tentative identification of cixiid planthoppers. The nymphs of cixiid planthoppers are reported to feed on the roots of grasses. Planthoppers are sucking insects in the order Homoptera and produce a sugary honeydew product that ants feed on. We did see a large number of ants in the rootball associated with these insects. We have sent samples to the USDA Systematic Entomology Lab and will follow-up after we receive a positive identification.



Broad Mites on Lamium

Examine your lamium plants over the next couple of weeks for the presence of cyclamen mites (Tarsonemid family). Every year in May we receive samples with injury from this pest. The mites feed on tip growth, making it hardened and gnarled.

Control: Judo, Sanmite, and Avid all work well



Cyclamen Mite Damage on Lamium

AG Day and Maryland Day

We had over 70,000 people visit the University of Maryland College Park campus for the 10th Annual Maryland Day on Saturday, April 26. We talked with many potential future environmental science and horticulture students and the future looks bright.

Upcoming Programs

Procrastinators' Pesticide Recertification Conference

June 6, 2008

Montgomery College, Germantown

For more information contact: Chuck Schuster at 301-590-2807 or cfs@umd.edu

IPM for Nurseries and Landscapes

June 11, 2008

Allegheny College of Maryland, Cumberland

For more information contact: Derrick Bender at 301-724-3320 or dbender@umd.edu

Procrastinators' Pesticide Recertification Conference- Eastern Shore

June 13, 2008

Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown

For more information contact: Ginny Rosenkranz at 410-749-6141 or rosnkranz@umd.edu

Scouting Reports

John Speaker is continuing to see bacterial blight (*Pseudomonas syringae*) on celosia at several locations. He has now found white mold (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*) at 15 different operations on lobelia and petunias. **Please see our April 11th and April 18th reports for more detailed information on these diseases.** John is also seeing grasshoppers feeding on zinnias in greenhouses this week. He reported finding them on zinnias and coleus on June 1 last year. Synthetic pyrethroids work well for grasshoppers.



Grasshopper Damage on Zinnia
John Speaker



Sclerotia on Lobelia Stem
Karen Rane



Bacterial Blight on Celosia
Karen Rane