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

OCTOBER 2007

HOMEOWNER PLANT DISEASE CLINIC REPORT

Holly Thornton, Homeowner IPM Specialist

Since homeowners are unable to irrigate across most of the state, disease pressure remains low. Plant problems seen in the diagnostic clinic and throughout the state are related to the stressful, persistent drought conditions. For instance, we are seeing an extensive amount of dieback in our 'favorite' evergreens, Leyland cypress. Most of the damage is likely *Seiridium* canker caused by the fungal pathogen *Seiridium unicorne*. This pathogen becomes an issue during extremely dry weather, causing cankers on scattered limbs throughout the tree. Management recommendations for this plant problem include removal of the dead/dying limbs by pruning and one inch of irrigation per week, the latter of which we are unable to do in most areas of the state.

Another issue I have received several calls about is dieback and death of large, older trees (mainly oaks and poplars). The direct cause of death for most of these trees is attributed to several factors. These trees usually have quite a few problems that are often unnoticed or masked. Many of them may have heart rots, insect damage, or other fungal problems, such as cankers, which they can usually live with, but without the needed water they simply cannot survive.

The monthly table of plant samples submitted to the Homeowner diagnostic clinic is shown below. There will be no 'Disease of the Month' for October. Instead, Mrs. Jan Fowler and I have prepared a 2006 Annual Plant Disease Clinic report, which includes all physical samples (both homeowner and commercial) diagnosed in both plant disease clinics (Athens and Tifton). It is available on our clinic webpage (http://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/extension/clinic.html) under Annual Reports.

OCTOBER 2007 Homeowner Samples

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
Banks	Gardenia	No disease on foliage	Physical
Bartow	Leyland cypress	Possible *Seiridium* canker (*Seiridium unicorne*)	DDDI
Bartow	Rhododendron	Possible root rot	DDDI
Berrien	St. Augustine	Take all root rot	Physical

County	Plant	Common Name of Disease (Pathogen)	Type of Sample – DDDI or Physical
		(*Gauemannomyces graminis*) and possible Fairy Ring	
Coweta	Centipede	No disease – Cultural/environmental	Physical
Dougherty	Confederate Jasmine	Root rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*)	Physical
Henry	Alberta Spruce	No disease – Environmental stress	Both
Houston	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	DDDI
Jeff Davis	Pomegranate	No disease – Environmental stress	Physical
Lincoln	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Lumpkin	Oak	Possible Bacterial Wetwood	DDDI
Monroe	Centipede	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*) and Large patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*)	Both
Monroe	Crucifer vegetables	Unable to determine	DDDI
Monroe	Tulip tree	Unable to determine – possible drought stress	DDDI
Newton	Rose	No disease – possible transplant shock	DDDI
Pierce	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*) and Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum* sp.)	Physical
Richmond	St. Augustine	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Twiggs	Holly	Possible *Cylindrocladium* leaf spot (*Cylindrocladium* sp.)	DDDI
Ware	Centipede	Take all root rot (*G. graminis*)	Physical
Ware	Bahiagrass	Fusarium head blight (*Fusarium* sp.) and Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum* sp.)	Physical
Total Samples (late-September to late-October) = 20			