

Clinic Update: May Samples at the Diagnostic Clinic

We have had a number of plant sample submissions to the diagnostic clinic in May. Many of the sample submissions have been fungal diseases. Cool wet weather conditions across much of the state in May seem to have been favorable for plant disease development.

Anthracnose is common on shade trees during the spring, and we have had several sample submissions, particularly from ash trees this year. Other foliar fungal diseases including *Microstoma* leaf spot on hickory and crown rust on Carolina buckthorn. Two pines had pine needle rust. Other tree issues include some root rot issues on ornamental pears, one from a poorly draining location was serologically positive for *Phytophthora*. Some insect issues include granulate ambrosia beetle in several tree species in central and southwestern Missouri including peach, black walnut and plum. Several tree samples have been submitted with foliar galls including hackberry nipple gall and a *Phylloxera* gall on hickory.

An issue we have received several emails and phone calls about his spring, but few samples, is dieback of death of eastern red cedar. Samples submitted to the plant diagnostic clinic have had numerous issues including cedar apple rust, cedar quince rust,

Kabatina tip blight, *Phomopsis* tip blight, spruce spider mite, bagworm and scale. While these issues can cause some dieback none of these appear to be likely to cause death of submitted samples. Certainly, rot issues may be present as well where entire plants are dying. In the past we have diagnosed a *Phytophthora* root rot on this species. Annosum root rot has also recently been identified by the Missouri Department of Conservation. More samples where severe damage is noted may result in additional information about the issue. It is important to try and collect material from trees with damage, but that have not been dead for several months. Root and crown material in addition to branch material would be useful for a complete diagnosis.

We have also had a number of tomato submissions. From high tunnels we have had a couple samples with bacterial canker, a *Fusarium* crown rot, and *Rhizoctonia* canker. Additional samples had walnut wilt and *Pythium* root rot. A pepper sample had bacterial leaf spot. Stevia was submitted with a broad mite infestation. Grape samples have been submitted with grape vine tomato gall and black rot. Peach and cherry samples have been submitted with brown rot, additional peach samples with peach leaf curl.

A few ornamental samples have also been submitted. English ivy had anthracnose, and several bedding plants had a *Pythium* root rot. Turf submissions include *Zoysia* with large patch and some recent fescue samples with brown patch.

Submission of samples to the plant diagnostic clinic can help prevent serious damage to your plantings. In addition to providing a diagnosis, management information is also provided. Your sample submissions also help provide a comprehensive update on plant problems for this newsletter and other resources. Additional information on sample submission is available at <http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/plant/>

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