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Lilacs Have Some Problems

By Cynthia Ash
Assistant Extension Plant Pathologist
Minnesota Extension Service

Bacterial blight hit lilacs, especially white-flowered varieties, this spring with the cool wet conditions in May and could continue to spread under similar conditions. The blight resembles fireblight. Young succulent leaves and stems turn black and shrivel. Young shoots may be marked by a black strip or cankered (dead) areas.

Destroy diseased shoots by pruning with sterilized shears. Shears can be sterilized by dipping them for two seconds in a 10% bleach solution (nine parts water to one part household bleach) between cuts. Application of a copper fungicide as soon as the disease is detected has been found helpful. Copper fungicides can cause some leaf burn under certain conditions. Check the label for precautions. Avoid excessive fertilizer application including manure, and water only at the base of the plant. Thin older bushes to increase air circulation.

Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease on many plants including lilacs. A white to gray powdery fungal growth can be seen on the surface and/or bottom of the leaf. The disease seldom causes severe damage and can be kept at a minimum with pruning, and watering only at the base. During seasons when rainfall is plentiful and the humidity remains high, mildew will be more abundant and a fungicide such as sulfur or benomyl (Benlate) could be used to prevent new infections.



New Publication

“Planting and Transplanting Trees and Shrubs” (AG-FO-3825) is a new publication which replaces Planting Landscape Trees (AG-FO-0692). This publication should be available from the Minnesota Extension Service's Distribution Center or your local county extension office.

Verticillium Wilt Linked To Shade Trees Death

By Cynthia Ash
Assistant Extension Plant Pathologist
Minnesota Extension Service

Verticillium wilt is a fungal disease which interferes with the water conducting system in many shade trees including ash, maple, catalpa, cherry lilac and Russian olive.

The fungus is present in the soil and enters the plant through roots. Verticillium wilt has acute and chronic phases. Acute symptoms include curling, dying, or abnormal red or yellow color leaf color, defoliation, wilting, dieback and sudden death of individual branches or entire trees. Trees or portions of trees may display these symptoms one year and appear healthy the next.

Chronic symptoms which may appear on certain limbs or the entire tree and include slow growth, sparse foliage, stunted leaves and twigs, leaf scorch, abnormally heavy seed crops and dieback.

The presence of the fungus in the xylem (water conducting tissues) results in a greenish to gray-brown discoloration of the xylem. This streaking may appear in the part of the tree displaying the acute or chronic symptoms but is more likely to be found farther down the tree in the trunk or larger limbs which support the symptomatic branches.

The severity of the infection is increased by adverse environmental conditions including water stress, high salt levels in the soil, transplant stress, poor soils and nutrient deficiencies. Care should be taken to alleviate or prevent these conditions. Trees resistant or immune to verticillium wilt should be used to replace trees lost to disease. Examples include ginkgo, juniper, larch, pine, spruce, apple, crabapple, mountain ash, birch, hackberry, hawthorn, linden, honeylocust, oak and poplar.

More information is available in a Minnesota Extension Service fact sheet, AG-FS-1164 entitled, *Verticillium Wilt of Trees and Shrubs*.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS—MAY 4, 1990

Lyle Kleven	Class	A	Viking Meadow GC
Todd Maistrovich		BII	Brightwood Hills
Pat Mogren		D	Oak Glen CC
Paul Swift		B	Fox Lake
Scott Thorne		F	Lesco, Inc.
Charles Tuthill		D	Elk River CC

RECLASSIFICATION

Michael Brual	B-D	Hazeltine
James Lockway	B-A	Phalen GC
Michael Ramerth	C-BII	Shoreland CC
Bob Shields	AAA	Lake Miltona

Greg Hubbard, Membership Chairman

Take Steps to Avoid Deer Ticks

By Jeffrey D. Hahn
Assistant Extension Entomologist
Minnesota Extension Service

People may shy away from outside activities because of deer ticks and Lyme disease. By observing some common sense guidelines, the outdoors can still be enjoyed with a reduced risk of encountering deer ticks.

The easiest way to avoid this tick is to stay away from places where they are known to be a problem. The deer tick is found primarily in hardwood forests and adjacent grasslands and is most common in the central and east areas of Minnesota.

If this is not possible, wear protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts and pants. Pants tucked into socks provide additional protection. Wear light-colored clothing so ticks are easier to spot. Walk in the middle of the trail and avoid grassy areas nearby.

Apply repellents to your clothing to discourage ticks. Products that contain DEET work well. A new repellent known as Permanone, containing permethrin, is even more effective, killing the ticks on contact as well as repelling them. Permanone may be difficult to find.

Periodical inspection for ticks on all parts of the body is important. Deer tick nymphs, the most prevalent stage during the summer, are very small and can be easily overlooked.

If an attached tick is found, carefully remove it with tweezers by grasping it around the head as close to the skin as possible and gently, yet firmly, pulling it out. Home remedies such as covering the tick with vaseline or touching it with a lit match do not work, and these uses are discouraged.

Save any ticks that are found biting to be identified by an expert. Different stages of wood ticks and other ticks are present and can be confused with the deer tick, making identification difficult.

Knowledge and awareness is the single most important protection against deer ticks and Lyme disease. Know what to look for and expect, and you can still enjoy the great outdoors.

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GCSAA Gives \$35,000 for Research

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presented a record \$35,000 contribution to the joint USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee to support research into turfgrass breeding and environmental considerations during the 1990 U.S. Open.

"We certainly appreciate the support that GCSAA has shown us—not just the financial support, but also the moral support that golf course superintendents have given us," said Dr. Mike Kenna, USGA research director.

Last year GCSAA—through its Scholarship & Research Fund—donated \$25,000 to the committee for general support of turfgrass research and an additional \$25,000 earmarked to fund a full review of all scientific literature on the environmental impact of golf course management practices.

Results of the review are now serving as the starting point in the development of a comprehensive manual of best management practices. GCSAA's 1990 contribution will go into the committee's general fund and will support research that results from the review's findings.

According to Kenna, even though many superintendents already consider the environmental consequences of their management practices, the manual will provide needed documentation of environmentally responsible pest control. "I feel confident that we're in good shape to meet the challenges not only of the '90s, but of the next century as well, especially in the area of water use," Kenna said.

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