ANTHRACNOSE—BEYOND DOGWOODS

One of our favorite northwest woodland treasures is now in bloom. Our native dogwood, *Cornus nutallii*, has been showing its glorious white flowers at woodland edges. Doesn’t it just make you smile?! But don’t look too closely. Many of our native dogwoods suffer from the fungal condition anthracnose.

https://pnwhandbooks.org/anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/dogwood-cornus-spp-anthracnose

An anthracnose infection will cause leaf and flower blotches, cankers, and leaf drop. This disease will continue to affect the trees causing leaves to develop brown blotches and fall prematurely throughout the summer, sometimes to the point of defoliation. Having to repeatedly re-leaf after defoliation year after year is exhausting, and exhausted trees sometimes do not recover . . . a sad situation for such a glorious tree.

In spite of the fate of many of our native dogwoods and other susceptible dogwood species and cultivars, anthracnose is not confined to *Cornus* alone. Anthracnose is **not a specific disease but a condition** caused by several related fungi, and affects many trees, shrubs, and even strawberries and lettuce. Each fungus that causes the condition anthracnose is specific to its particular host and symptoms vary by host. Most common for us in western Washington is anthracnose on dogwood, sycamore, oak, maple, and apple as well as strawberries and lettuce.

**Continued on page 2 . . .**
HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID
Adelges tsugae

Introduced via Asia in 1924, the Hemlock (Tsuga) Woolly Adelgid is a sucking insect with multiple life stages. True to their name, they appear as woolly white tufts at the base of needles and bark.

While considered a pest in our area, they can cause significant damage to hemlock hedges. Stressed plants are more susceptible to this insect pest. Refer to the PNW Handbook for further details:
https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/nursery/hosts-nursery/hemlock-tsuga-hemlock-adelgid

Further Resources from:
PNW Insect and Disease Management Handbook:
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/sycamore-platanus-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/oak-quercus-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/maple-acer-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/apple-malus-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/strawberry-fragaria-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/lettuce-lactuca-sativa-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/lettuce-lactuca-sativa-bulls-eye-rot

ANTHRACNOSE—BEYOND DOGWOODS—CONTINUED ...

An anthracnose infection is usually expressed in leaf blotches and sometimes twig or branch cankers, but oddly enough, apple anthracnose is seen as twig or branch cankers and a bull’s-eye rot of the fruit but no leaf involvement. Spores overwinter in bark cracks, cankers, and fallen leaves, and our cool wet springs are ideal for developing the fungi that cause anthracnose year after year. Cleaning up fallen leaves always helps but may prove difficult in the woods where our native dogwood is found. Check out these links for more information.

Further Resources from:
PNW Insect and Disease Management Handbook:
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/sycamore-platanus-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/oak-quercus-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/maple-acer-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/apple-malus-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/strawberry-fragaria-spp-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/lettuce-lactuca-sativa-anthracnose
https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/lettuce-lactuca-sativa-bulls-eye-rot

SUMMER SPIDERS
As summer has officially started, it is important to stay current on the resources available from WSU and other nearby university systems that will help with clinic questions. We continue to review the Diagnostic Lab’s data from 2012 to present to see what’s happening now and suggest some new or recently revised resources you might find helpful.

**Question:** Why are maples (*Acer spp.*) still leading the list in July?

Cultural as well as fungal problems continue to plague this species. Anthracnose is now on the rise along with verticillium wilt. Watch for premature leaf drop defoliating the tree. This can sometimes happen quite suddenly. Refer to the 2015 Hortsense factsheet on Maple: Anthracnose, [http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=441](http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=441) for more information on this fungal problem. Several plant species can suffer from anthracnose. See information elsewhere in Heads UP! and in [https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-and-disease-descriptions?title=anthracnose](https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-and-disease-descriptions?title=anthracnose). Information about verticillium wilt may be found in the PNW Handbook: [https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/pathogen-articles/common/fungi/verticillium-wilt-pacific-northwest](https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/pathogen-articles/common/fungi/verticillium-wilt-pacific-northwest).

**Question:** What’s with the rhododendrons and azaleas?

We continue to see powdery mildew and sun scald affect these plants, and now there is lace bug. For help in identifying these pests and diseases on your rhododendrons and azaleas see the updated EM0901, [http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM091/EM091.pdf](http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM091/EM091.pdf).

**Question:** Are you seeing samples of blossom blight, twig and/or branch dieback and fruit rot on cherries in clinic?

Brown rot fungi survive year to year on infected twigs, branches and old flowers, and the spores begin their infection during wet weather. Be aware that some infections may be symptomless until fruit begins to ripen. Information about the fungus and treatments may be found at [https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/cherry-prunus-spp-brown-rot-blossom-rot-fruit-rot](https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/cherry-prunus-spp-brown-rot-blossom-rot-fruit-rot). There was a 2016 update to the Hortsense page on cherry brown rot. See [http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=35](http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=35). One last thing to look for in cherries this time of year is the cherry bark tortrix (CBT), an invasive pest whose larvae are bark borers. Read the WSU Pest Watch about this pest: [http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS155E/FS155E.pdf](http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS155E/FS155E.pdf) and glean more information at [https://puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/wp-content/uploads/sites/408/2015/02/PLS-67-Cherry-Bark-Tortrix.pdf](https://puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/wp-content/uploads/sites/408/2015/02/PLS-67-Cherry-Bark-Tortrix.pdf).

**Continued on page 4...**

In addition to the links provided in these articles, an internet search of the disease or insect name, especially including the host plant, will also provide results.
WEB SOURCES NOT TO IGNORE!

- http://gardening.wsu.edu/
- https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect
- https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease
- https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed
- http://pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Home/PestsenseHome.aspx
- http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/diagnostic-resources/

**Concern:** Like the maples, anthracnose plagues dogwoods (*Cornus* species and cultivars).

Watch for sunken spots that are brown with purple edges. This month’s Heads UP! has more information on this disease. The other dogwood problem now is powdery mildew. There is an updated 2016 Hortsense PDF on powdery mildew in dogwoods that will help you identify this problem in clinic, http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=770.

**LOOK OUT!** Fruit and vegetable problems are on the rise in July, and tomatoes and raspberries lead the list.

**Question:** What’s wrong with your tomatoes?


**Question:** Are there worms in your raspberries?

The spotted wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, fly has deposited its eggs in your berries. The larvae will hatch there and begin feeding inside your berries. Many kinds of berries can be damaged in this way. See last month’s Heads UP! (http://www.mgfkc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/20170606-HeadsUp-June2017.pdf) for more about this pest.

**Concern:** Atlas and Deodar cedars are still losing their needles to needle blight caused by the *Sirococcus* (see last month’s Heads UP! Issue), but now the true firs (*Abies*, not Douglas Firs) and hemlocks (*Tsuga*) have their own problem; woolly adelgids.

These sucking insects appear as white tufts on the dark needles. The tufts hide the adult insects and their immature stage called crawlers underneath. See the 2017 Hortsense update on this insect at http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=402.

**Concern:** This month, like last, we are seeing a lot of pear trellis rust.


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**CHECK YOUR FORM:**

**CLINIC NAME AND LEGIBILITY MATTERS!**

Please make sure to take time to **accurately** and **legibly** complete the diagnosis and/or ID forms to be submitted with samples to the diagnostic lab.

Forms are not complete without the **clinic name**. Without the clinic name we cannot share the diagnosis with your clinic.

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**Peeking at Paths of Plant Problems 2012-2016**

What is the trend? Which plants have problems on the rise in summer?
This new “department” features the headbanging, heartbreaking, and hangover inducing losses in the garden.

THIS MONTH: Squirrel 1, Daphne 0

The crushing loss of this 35 year old Daphne is compounded by the fact that the ultimate demise and final blow was dealt by fuzzy, long-tailed rodents—squirrels. The shrub’s stems have been pilfered of their bark! Without this protection and nutrient highway, there is no chance for survival.

The shrub also took a beating from our winter—the weight of snow caused a split in the main trunk at the base of the plant, pictured below. Had this been the only damage the shrub might have survived, but the double-punch of the serious squirrel damage and the trunk split results in a new opportunity in the garden, after the appropriate grieving time has elapsed.