TSU NURSERY NEWS TO USE

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CRAPEMYRTLE BARK SCALE


CREDIT: Jim Robbins, University of Arkansas CES, Bugwood.org

is an invasive insect pest that was first reported in the U.S. in 2004. CMBS has now been confirmed in all Southeastern states, except Florida, and as far north as Kansas and Washington. It has significantly affected the growth and aesthetic value of crapemyrtle plants. STOPCMBS working group has released a several videos on management of the scale. Videos are free and available for viewing at **https://stopcmbs.com/2020/04/28/announcing-webinars/ .**

VASCULAR STREAK DIEBACK IN REDBUD LEFT TO RIGHT: Stunted, "mouse-eared" growth and visible dieback on redbud - Infected leaves may die but will remain attached to the branch, as many oak species do - vascular discoloration in the "vessels" of the branch

Redbud sampling will begin in the next few months so please work with your inspectors. The survey you are currently receiving will help determine host (and cultivar) infection. Your help is very important in identifying and confirming the source of dieback and redbud mortality. The more we know, the quicker we can develop management strategies.

In the meantime, follow best management practices and increase scouting. Please inspect all incoming liners (redbud, dogwood, red maple) and cull when necessary. Do not plant wounded or suspect trees. Proper pruning and disposal of pruned tissue from nursery block is essential, as are sanitary practices while grafting. By removing diseased tissue from the block, we decrease the amount of pathogen available to infect host plants, therefore, we lower the disease severity and infection potential of the entire block. Because this appears to be a vascular disease, it will spread by grafting, i.e., pruning, budding, etc., therefore, sanitizing after each cut or bud will be necessary. Please understand, keeping it "clean" will be crucial in management. the dieback.

NC Extension has recommended working in DMI fungicides (e.g. FRAC 3) and strobilurins (e.g. FRAC 11) into your normal fungicide rotation system as these products can move within the plant versus only covering tissue. Dipping root systems will also be advantageous to plant health. We know that we have Phythopthora in Tennessee and with the amount of rainfall we receive, should be protecting our plants from all root rot diseases. ROTATE ALL FUNGICIDES including drench.

This is an industry problem, and no one is being singled out! We are not concerned about who or where this issue came from, only how to stop it! If you would like a copy of the presentation from March 2nd, please send me an email. I am happy to speak one-on-one, to a group, or over the telephone. We are all here to help, not hurt. Please contact me at adismuk1@tnstate.edu or 970-372-8556 for questions or to schedule a site visit. You can also contact Katy Kilbourne at Katherine.Kilbourne@tn.gov or any TDA inspector.

WEED OF THE MONTH: Common groundsel, *Senecio vulgaris*, is a cool-season annual broadleaf weed native to Eurasia but is now found throughout the United States. Common groundsel thrives in cool and moist conditions, can persist throughout the growing season in more temperate areas, but typically fades in the summer heat of Tennessee. Plants are commonly found in open areas such as roadsides, pastures, disturbed areas, greenhouses/shade houses, and nursery containers and fields.

Common groundsel seeds germinate in late winter/early spring through October and plants can produce seed within 6 weeks, thus capable of several generations in a single growing season. Leaves are deeply lobed with toothed edges, 2 to 4 inches long but tend to get smaller toward the top of the plant. Shoots can be upright to spreading and plants can reach 18 inches tall.

ABOVE: flower and seed set of common groundsel

BELOW: vegetative growth

Common groundsel blooms April to October, producing small bright yellow flowers (¼ to ½ inch wide) in clusters at the stem tips, maturing to form white tufts (pappus) with attached seed, similar to dandelion. A single plant can produce nearly 2000 seeds which are dispersed by wind and water and can germinate immediately due to lack of dormancy.

Although common groundsel seeds are not long-lived in the soil, seeds can mature even after plant death so controlling plants prior to flower is very effective in preventing future infestations. Post-emergent herbicide applications (diquat, glufosinate, and glyphosate) can control actively growing common groundsel while effective pre-emergent herbicide products contain flumioxazin, indaziflam, oxyfluorfen, and simazine.

Please contact Dr. Anthony Witcher (awitcher@tnstate.edu) for more information on nursery weed control practices.

We at the TSU NRC want to make every effort to keep growers informed and updated on all topics, and we have established multiple sites to do just that! Sharing information! Should you be interested, previous newsletter publications can be found online. We also have a TSU Facebook page and YouTube channel, where we will continue to share programming and research updates. All TSU nursery publications are also available online, in both English and Spanish.

TSU News to Use: https://www.tnstate.edu/agriculture/nrc/nursery_news-to-use.aspx
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For the Tennessee Master Nursery Producer program please use: http://www.tnmasternursery.com/. Please contact Dr. Amy Fulcher (afulcher@utk.edu) for more information on the Tennessee Master Nursery Producer program.

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