



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Aucuba

Aucuba is a spectacular evergreen ornamental shrub for shady locations. They prefer well-drained, moist soil with high organic matter, and a slightly acidic pH. The average size is 4-6 feet, but they have been known to reach 12 feet. Aucuba are not reliably winter hardy in zones colder than zone 7. If less than optimal growing conditions are present, Aucuba respond with black leaves. They resent being planted in a sunny location.

### Aucuba Sun Damage-Abiotic



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas  
Cooperative Extension

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## Baptisia

Blue False Indigo, *Baptisia australis*, is an attractive, upright perennial which usually grows 3-4' tall, and is tolerant of many different soil types. It has blooms of purple, lupine-like flowers in erect 12" racemes. It blooms in early summer, tolerates sun to part shade, and is attractive to butterflies. Baptisia has few problems as a rule but can be attacked by the larvae of the Genista Broom Moth, *Uresiphita reversalis*. This native caterpillar has a voracious appetite and can defoliate the plants they feed on quickly. They feed on Acacia, Broom, Lupin, Texas Mountain Laurel, crapemyrtle, and honeysuckle, as well as Baptisia. The caterpillar has a black head with white markings, and a slender yellowish green body with a series of raised black and white spots running down its body with white hairs coming out of them. The adult is a non-descript tan moth with tented wings. These caterpillars may be controlled by handpicking or applications of BT. Malathion will also kill them. They can also be handpicked and destroyed.

## Baptisia Broom Moth- *Uresiphita reversalis*



Photo by Hildegunde Simmons





## Baptisia Broom Moth- *Uresiphita reversalis*



Photo by Hildegunde Simmons

## Apple

Blotch of apple, caused by *Phyllosticta arbutifolia*, can attack leaves, fruit, and twigs. Symptoms on fruit are raised scabby lesions. Spots on leaves range from pinhead sized, yellowish green spots in the interveinal areas to elongated, sunken, light tan areas. Petiole lesions result in defoliation. Lesions on twigs may coalesce, girdling the twigs and small branches. A regular fungicide program beginning two weeks after petal fall controls Blotch. Homeowners may use Serenade, or Bonide Fruit Tree and Plant Guard Concentrate, or Bonide Fruit Tree Spray, or Hi-Yield Captan,

or Gordons Fruit Tree Spray, or Monterey Fruit Tree, Vegetable, and Ornamental Fungicide, Hi-Yield Vegetable, Flower, Fruit, and Ornamental Spray, or Spectracide Immunox Multi-purpose Fungicide for Gardens Spray Concentrate, or Bonide Infuse Systemic Fungicide (apply only to non-bearing trees).

## Manzana by Keiddy Urrea

A mancha de la manzana o “blotch of apple” como es conocida en inglés, es una enfermedad causada por el hongo *Phyllosticta arbutifolia*. Este patógeno ataca las hojas, frutas y tallos. Los síntomas en las frutas se expresan con pequeñas lesiones abultadas, mientras que en las hojas los síntomas se presentan de diferentes formas: pueden presentarse como pequeños puntos negros o como manchas verdes amarillentas a lo largo de la nervadura. Estas manchas pueden convertirse luego en manchas alargadas de color marrón. Las lesiones en los peciolo pueden causar defoliación. Cuando la enfermedad avanza los tallos y las ramas más largas se pueden torcer y morir. Para controlar la mancha de la manzana se recomienda aplicaciones de fungicidas dos semanas posteriores al comienzo de la floración. Para controlar la mancha de la manzana en jardines y huertas se recomienda Serenade, o Bonide Fruit Tree y Plant Guard Concentrate, o Bonide Fruit Tree Spray, o Hi-Yield Captan, o Gordons Fruit Tree Spray, o Monterey Fruit Tree, Vegetable, y Ornamental Fungicide, Hi-Yield Vegetable, Flower, Fruit, y Ornamental Spray, o Spectracide Immunox Multi-purpose Fungicide for Gardens Spray Concentrate, o

**Sherrie Smith**  
**Keiddy Urrea**



Bonide Infuse Systemic Fungicide (aplicar únicamente en árboles que no estén produciendo frutas).

### **Apple Blotch-*Phyllosticta arbutifolia***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Pecan**

This time of year, the Plant Health Clinic receives samples of hickory and pecan with hickory Shoot Curculio damage. The larvae are legless grubs that tunnel into new buds, stems and shoots of hickory and pecan. Their feeding and tunneling activity cause early leaf drop and death of affected twigs. This insect rarely causes serious damage to a well-managed orchard, where insecticides applied for more serious pecan pests also keep the Hickory Shoot Curculio in check. However, un-managed orchards next to wooded areas

containing native hickory and pecan may see more than half of the new shoots in the spring infested.

### **Pecan Hickory Shoot Curculio Damage-*Conotrachelus aratus***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Pecan Hickory Shoot Curculio Larva-*Conotrachelus aratus***



Photo by Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

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## **Pecan Hickory Shoot Curculio** **Adult- *Conotrachelus aratus***



Photo by Louis Tedders, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

This bulletin from the Cooperative Extension Plant Health Clinic (Plant Disease Clinic) is an electronic update about diseases and other problems observed in our lab each month. Input from everybody interested in plants is welcome and appreciated.

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