



## Arkansas Plant Health Clinic Newsletter

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### Pentas

Plant bugs from the genus *Lopidea* are true bugs from the Miridae family of plant bugs. This insect is about 5.5 mm long with orange and black coloration. The color of the bugs warns predators that they taste bad. *Lopidea* bugs feed on the sap of plants, attacking leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds. Large populations can form and cause considerable damage, including speckling of leaves, browning, flower abortion, and death of severely infested plants. There are several species of *Lopidea* bugs, usually host specific. This is the first time we have found them on Pentas. We are waiting for species identification from our insect expert. One very well-known species is the Phlox plant bug *Lopidea davisii*. It is a pest on cultivated phlox in the eastern United States. Most *Lopidea* species have only one generation a year, but the Phlox plant bug has two generations. Eggs overwinter on plant stems, hatching in the spring in May and June. The second generation appears in July and lasts to late September. The phlox plant bug's range is the eastern United States from Maryland and West Virginia in the east to South Dakota, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Mississippi in the

Midwest. You may use insecticidal soap at 1%-2% per gallon. Thorough coverage is necessary. Spray must contact pests to be effective. Repeat spray three times at 5-7-day intervals. Or you may use conventional insecticides such as acephate, acetamiprid, carbaryl, malathion, or pyrethroids. Always follow label instructions.

### Pentas with *Lopidea* Plant Bugs feeding on flowers-*Lopidea* spp.



Photo by Ricky Corder, formerly University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### Plant Bug-*Lopidea* spp.



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## Pentas with Feeding Injury- *Lopidea* spp.



Photo by Ricky Corder, formerly University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Muscadine Angular Leaf Spot- *Mycosphaerella angulata*



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

## Muscadine

Although muscadines are less prone to disease than wine grapes, Angular leaf spot of Muscadine grapes, caused by the fungus *Mycosphaerella angulata*, is an important disease in the southeastern United States, including Arkansas. The disease can cause extensive defoliation and yield loss. Symptoms begin as light-yellow flecks or spots. The centers of older lesions become dark brown to black, and angular in shape. Protective fungicides should be applied starting after bloom and continuing at 14-day intervals until August. Captan, Abound, Sovran, Flint, or Pristine. Follow label.

## Grape

Grapes are not an easy crop to grow in Arkansas. Our high humidity and warm weather is favorable for fungal diseases. Black rot, caused by the fungus *Phyllosticta ampellicida*, formerly *Guignardia bidwellii*, is the most economically important disease of grapes. All new growth is susceptible throughout the growing season, including leaf laminates, petioles, shoots, tendrils, peduncles, and fruit. Symptoms on leaves are circular tan spots that eventually become reddish brown with a narrow dark brown border. Black pimple-like fruiting bodies of the fungus form in the lesions. The fruiting bodies also appear in black lesions on the young shoots. Infection on the berries starts as a





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small white dot. In only a few hours, the tiny dot is surrounded by a reddish-brown ring. Within a few days the berry starts to dry, shrivel, and wrinkle to become a hard, blue-black mummy. The symptoms on Muscatine fruit are small, black, superficial, scabby lesions on infected berries. The lesions may coalesce to cover most of the berry. Infected berries may crack at the edges of the scabs. Black rot can be effectively controlled by using Captain, or Abound, or Pristine, or Aprovia, or Revus Top, or Adament, or Topguard, or Inspire Super, or Quadris Top, starting when shoots are 4-6 inches high, and continuing at 14-day intervals until August.

### **Grape Black Rot-*Phyllosticta ampellicida*, formerly *Guignardia bidwellii***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

### **Grape Black Rot-*Phyllosticta ampellicida*, formerly *Guignardia bidwellii***



Photo by Sherrie Smith, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

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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"This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27279/project accession no. 1013890] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture."