Pear Trellis Rust – New Infection Area Identified

A month ago, client in Long Island reported to their Arborist Representative that “something” was affecting the pear trees on their landscape. When samples were returned for diagnosis the disease was identified as Pear Trellis Rust. This caused consternation and surprise among the scientists at the Bartlett Research Laboratories because it has not been a disease common to the area.

Pear Trellis Rust is caused by the fungus Gymnosporangium sabinae (syn. G. fuscum). It is a widespread disease in orchard and landscape pear trees. Infection of pears causes unsightly leaf spots, premature defoliation, and physiological stress that can lead to dieback or attack by secondary pathogens or insects. Many rust diseases have a life-cycle involving the infection of two alternate host plants in a year. Alternate hosts for this disease are juniper species, which sustain minimal branch dieback from infection.

Management of many fungal diseases relies on removal of the infection source. This is not effective for Pear Trellis Rust because juniper species are common. Infectious spores can travel up to 6-km from the source plant. Removal of junipers on one site does not ensure that spores won’t travel to other sites.

Emerald Ash Borer Continues to Spread

EAB is making unwanted progress into states that have the food it likes best; ash trees. The red dots on the map indicate EAB sightings and outbreaks. What used to be isolated incidents are now becoming more and more frequent.

We invite You to ‘Like’ Us and ‘Follow’ Our Tweets

Sites like Facebook and Twitter have opened up a whole new frontier of communication. People and organizations use Facebook and Twitter daily and in increasing numbers. Bartlett is no exception. Our local offices have Facebook pages and we post daily on Twitter about tree and shrub conditions. We also conduct monthly chat sessions with Bartlett scientists that cover tree & shrub care topics and tips. It’s just one more way to stay in touch and provide information that may be of interest to you.

Let’s Communicate Better

Your local office sends out e-mail notifications, bios, and other items of interest to clients. We’d like to include you on our emailing-list. If you supply your email address to your Arborist Representative, you’ll receive pertinent communications about conditions in your area and other subjects on a regular but not overbearing basis. We hope you’ll give it a try. If you reconsider, you can opt-out.
Recent Disease and Insect Sightings in the Pacific Northwest

Spring has finally come to the Pacific Northwest and with it have come pests and diseases that will require treatment in the summer months. Check the following plant list and the pests and diseases anticipated this year:

**Rose**: black spot, rust, and powdery mildew  
**Apple/crabapple**: scab and powdery mildew  
**Cherry**: brown rot  
**Dogwood** (*C. florida & C. nutallii*): anthracnose  
**Amelanchier**: powdery mildew and rust  
**Plantings (various)**: aphids

Oaks are just starting to leaf as it gets warmer. Anthracnose and leaf blister have appeared, and so it is advised to have your Bartlett Arborist inoculate for these diseases.

### New Insect in Southeast: Kudzu Bug

In 2009 a new insect was found in Georgia; the “kudzu bug” (*Megacopta cribraria*). Originally from Japan, it is thought to have arrived at the Atlanta airport by plane (most likely as a stowaway). The bug has already spread to South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama.

The scientists at Bartlett are interested in this species for several reasons:

**Safety issue**: Kudzu bugs are extremely irritating to the eyes. Workers on sites with kudzu and wisteria need to be careful about eye protection. The key is preventing the bugs from landing in the eyes. There are many reports of a single insect in an eye causing several days of burning and swelling. The principle ingredient in the bug’s stinky defensive compound appears to be tridecane. It is recommended to flush eyes with water as soon as possible.

**Plant Pest**: Kudzu bugs feed on legumes, including wisteria. We do not know if it feeds on redbud, locusts, or other landscape ornamentals. We have seen them on yellowwood at our laboratories. Reports so far indicate that it is damaging to soybean and peanut crops. On the good side, it slows the growth of kudzu by 30%.

**Home Pest**: This is another nuisance pest that invades homes in the fall. They smell like stink bugs.

Please contact us if you have concerns about this new pest.

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### Delay Pruning of Salt Spray Damage

Many trees and shrubs in coastal areas of the Northeast are leafing out sporadically and exhibiting extensive twig and branch dieback. Salt spray from Hurricane Irene that swept from North Carolina through New England is the primary cause of the problem. Salt deposited on buds and twigs caused desiccation and death of the tissue that is now evident as plants push new growth. Plants within one-half mile of the ocean and bays are most severely affected. The south and west facing portions of the plants also exhibit the most severe damage.

Delay pruning any damaged tissue until later in the summer when the full extent of the injury can be assessed. In many instances, latent buds will sprout and produce new growth on branches that may now appear dead. Irrigate plants during dry weather to aid recovery. If plants were not previously fertilized this spring, a light application of prescription Bartlett Boost® fertilizer will also encourage new growth and promote crown development.

### Spring Frosts Have Ramifications for Plant Cycles

Record warmth in March and widely fluctuating temperatures in April has produced late frost injury in many areas of the Eastern United States. Most damage is likely to be cosmetic and plants should look better as new growth covers damaged foliage. Maintaining soil moisture, mulching the root zone and light fertilization will aid recovery.

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### Pear Trellis Rust

(continued from front page)

be introduced from another site each spring. Disease management focuses on the rose-family host. Cultural methods like pruning increase air flow and sunlight, reducing the time that leaves are wet. Disease control materials should then be applied for prevention. Once leaf spots appear, control materials have little or no effect. Removal of spore producing swollen areas on juniper branches may reduce disease pressure in an area, but this will not eliminate all the spores that cause the disease.

We have a naturally based disease control material that can then be applied preventatively. If you have concerns about Pear Trellis Rust please contact us for a review.
Drought Conditions Begin Early

Throughout most of the eastern seaboard and Texas, drought conditions continue to be abnormally dry to severe. In the Southeast, the drought is classified as extreme to exceptional. Rain in the last week of April has eased the effects of drought in some areas but has not made up for the rainfall deficit that exists. Irrigation is extremely important on new transplants in these areas as well as trees damaged by spring frosts, defoliators and other stresses. Please consult us for managed care and advice.

Record Year for Fireblight

Fireblight trials at our laboratory this year reveal that untreated control apples averaged 252 blighted shoots per tree. (8’x10’ height and spread.) This is the most ever recorded.

Most trees exhibited excellent disease suppression when treated with Arborbiotic. It was noted that some trees responded better than others.

Let us review treatments for fireblight and offer recommendations.

Tell Me About Trees by S. Murdock

Across
1. Bartlett’s #1 Fertilizer
4. Trees can be this if they aren’t watched
10. A sonic air tool will ***** soil
12. Where the climbers go
13. Someone who trims limbs
14. Too much or too little is no good for trees
17. Related to areas (Hardiness Zones)
19. Like etc. or etal (comparer)
20. Pure, found in leaves and stems
22. See SD. Caterpillar’s brag continued **** leaf
26. **** orange
29. Solidify, like pavement
32. See 22A (filler word) **
27. Fertilize out to the **** line
29. Industrial insects - they sting sometimes
30. Landscape **** for planting
32. *** oak
34. Not po - grounds***
35. Listing on a Bartlett proposal
38. Public & professional arboricultural resource
39. Treats with medicine
41. Climbers **** out on a limb
46. Evergreen conifers
48. Take **** sample
49. Our yellow truck
51. Apres vous *** (Fr.)
52. Bartlett has five offices here

Down
1. Sad picea pimpens?
2. Fluid transported in xylem cells (woody plants)
3. Biochar is ***** prett (dark earth)
4. Climbers **** out on a limb
5. Caterpillar’s brag #1 “I *** **
6. **** degrees is freezing
7. Tree native to Ireland
8. Bartlett has 2 offices here (abr.)
9. Urban plants are ***** trees
11. Regret - or scented evergreen
15. Related to hgt. (abr.)
16. Irish people and landscape
18. My rhododendron *****
a trim
21. Bartlett products provide this
23. Some people say sycamore, but it is ***
24. Beginning (as in disease)
26. Sun rooms
28. A Bartlett care program
31. Bartlett offers *** (see 21D) option
33. Disorder that destroyed American Elms (abr.)
36. Plants like ***** soil
37. Tree for sugaring time - Sugar ****
38. Bartlett Arborists ***** woody plants for problems
40. Caterpillars (and others) have a larval **** of change
41. Evil beetle eats maples (no syrup) (abr.)
42. Gays (for trees) are ****
44. Bartlett’s #1 *** is “Safety Above All Else”
46. Bartlett has 1 office here
47. Oips. of LFT (starboard to sailors) (abr.)
50. Abbreviation for clue 52A

Check the answers at www.bartlett.com/crossword or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone

Get Electronic Tree Tips – Plant a Tree!

Go to www.bartlett.com/newsletter and enroll to receive Tree Tips electronically, we’ll plant a tree in your name as part of the Arbor Day Foundation’s reforestation project. It’s easy to do! Find your client code in the yellow box on the back page mailing panel of your Tree Tips.

Pay Your Bill Online

Sign up for paperless invoicing
Set up automatic payments

Our online bill pay system is part of the “Your Account” section of our web site. It makes it easier to do business with us!

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Book Reviews


The old saying has it wrong; all too often we see the forest, but don’t begin to appreciate the unique qualities of the trees. With 90 stunning photos from around the world, Trees celebrates these awe-inspiring gifts of nature. This extraordinary book set the record straight, looking at trees from many points of view. No one who reads Trees will ever take them for granted again.

The Man Who Planted Trees by Jean Giono

The Man Who Planted Trees is not a detailed how-to guide to planting; it is a touching story of Elzéar Boffuyer, who devoted his entire life to reforesting a desolate portion of Provence, in southern France. He single-handedly planted 100 acorns each day before, through, and after two world wars, and transformed a sorrowful place into one full of life and joy. Jean Giono’s words offer a tribute to how much good one person can accomplish in a lifetime and advise on how to live life with deep meaning. Illustrated with moving, beautiful wood engravings by Michael McCurdy.

FANDEX Family Field Guides: Trees

by Steven Aronson

This book has long thin pages attached at one end like a fan. Each “fan” is topped with a full color photo of the leaf and bark of a particular tree – perfect for the youngest hikers or backyard botanists. The text is written at a much older level, nevertheless, there are many facts that will fascinate readers and listeners of all ages. This is a handy book that sits easily on a kitchen or classroom shelf or in a backpack, providing easy reference and pleasurable reading.
I’m sure you’ll find this issue interesting and useful.

Please call me if you have any concerns with your property.

Fire Ants are Spreading Throughout Bartlett’s Service Areas

Most people recognize red fire ants from Brazil that first became established in the U.S. in the 1930s. These stinging insects have plagued people and livestock alike. Controlling the ant is now a $1 billion a year business. Each year, red fire ants sting more than ½ of the U.S. population in the Southeast.

Recently, researchers Kelby Fite and Elden Lebrun from the North Carolina Bartlett laboratories traveled to Chicago for a root invigoration project. They began to be stung by ants. However, when the ants in Chicago were identified, they were not Brazilian red fire ants. They were European fire ants.

European fire ants don’t produce mounds like the Brazilian fire ants, so it is even more possible to be stung without warning.

These ants are now causing problems in the U.S. states of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Several species have also been spotted in the Midwest.

In Canada, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are affected by infestations. The UK and Ireland may see increases in European fire ant infestations as well.

Brazilian fire ants

European fire ants

Nova Scotia are affected by infestations. The UK and Ireland may see increases in European fire ant infestations as well.

Brazilian fire ants

European fire ants