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# Ornamental Disease Updates

I attended the UT Landscape Review Program on the third of September, at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson. I always look forward to this event because of the educational information that attending Extension Agents receive. We heard all the new pests and disease updates from Dr. Hale (Professor Entomology) and Dr. Wyndham (Professor Plant Pathology). The following are some of the highlights from the Ornamental Disease update:

- 1 Follow the Soil Plant and Pest Center on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/SoilPlantPestCenter>
- 2 Liriope crown rot is a common problem in new plantings. The best defense against Liriope crown rot is to use only disease free plants. Planting too deep, poor drainage, and excess irrigation are contributing factors. Fungicides are ineffective and won't cure the disease. Liriope crown rot is caused by *Phytophthora* which is long-lived in the soil.
- 3 Boxwood blight continues to be a threat. This starts as a leaf spot and spreads to most of the foliage. Boxwood blight can spread short distances by splashing water. Prevention is the best method of control. Awareness, inspection, isolation of infected plants, and inspection prior to planting are beneficial practices for prevention. Boxwood blight cannot be effectively controlled once the infection begins. Shrubs with boxwood blight should be removed to help prevent the spread of the disease to healthy plants. Fungicides can be used as prevention, but don't offer a cure. Boxwood cultivars vary in susceptibility. [www.boxwoodblight.org](http://www.boxwoodblight.org)
- 4 Impatiens downy mildew continues to be a hazard to garden impatiens. It is not as widespread as in the past due to fewer impatiens being planted. *Impatiens balsamina* is also a host. Resistant plants are begonia, New Guinea impatiens, Bounce impatiens, and tourney.
- 5 Coleus downy mildew is affecting chartreuse colored coleus. <http://www.gpnmag.com/diagnosing-and-treating-coleus-and-downy-mildew>
- 6 Rose rosette update: The drift rose is not immune. Rugosa rose may be resistant. Over 800 roses have been planted to evaluate resistance to rose rosette in Cumberland County.
- 7 Leaf spot diseases of trees are common in the late summer and early fall. Shot hole is common on the ornamental cherry. Other fungal leaf spots are common on maple, oak, and pear trees.
- 8 Root knot nematode: Poor plant growth may indicate a root knot problem. Wash away soil and look for swollen, galled roots. Female nematodes are microscopic; produce an egg mass of several hundred eggs. To control root knot nematodes in a small area remove and replace the soil. Use resistant plants. You can also solarize beds in full sun. [https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/Ornamental/nematodes/odin31\\_nematodes.htm](https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/Ornamental/nematodes/odin31_nematodes.htm)

I do hope this information helps you in the garden. It is always good to stay current on things that may affect your desirable plants and to scout your garden for these problems. Please contact me if you have any questions (901-752-1207).

Until next time, happy gardening!



*Christopher Cooper*