

Plant Clinic Sample Summary

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For information about submitting a sample, please see our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/plant-clinic>.

The following diseases, disorders, and pest issues were identified at the Plant Clinic from **January 1 through May 31, 2023**. Unless otherwise noted, the diagnoses were confirmed on the samples. Diagnoses are suspected when damage or injury indicative of a specific cause is found, but the causal agent itself is not present on the sample.

Host	Diagnosis	Pathogen/Pest	County
Broad-Leaved Woody Ornamentals			
Gray Birch	Rhizoctonia root rot	<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
Boxwood	Boxwood leafminer	<i>Monarthropalpus flavus</i> (<i>buxi</i>)	Champaign, Cook, St. Louis MO
	Boxwood Macrophoma leaf spot	<i>Macrophoma candollei</i>	Cook, Saint Louis MO
	Boxwood mite (confirmed and suspected)	<i>Eurytetranychus buxi</i>	Champaign, Cook, St. Louis MO
	Boxwood psyllid (confirmed and suspected)	<i>Psylla buxi</i>	Champaign, Cook
	Boxwood Volutella blight; Canker	<i>Volutella buxi</i>	Champaign, Cook, St. Louis MO
	Fusarium canker	<i>Fusarium</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
	Phytophthora root rot	<i>Phytophthora</i> sp./spp.	Cook
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Cook, Champaign, Marion
Littleleaf Boxwood	Oystershell scale	<i>Lepidosaphes ulmi</i>	Jackson
	Fusarium canker	<i>Fusarium</i> sp./spp.	Jackson
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Jackson
Burning Bush	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Iroquois
Crabapple	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Bureau
Kousa Dogwood	Rhizoctonia root rot	<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp./spp.	Piatt
Elm	Fungal canker	Various	Champaign
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Champaign

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Ginkgo	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	La Salle
Magnolia	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Champaign
Japanese Maple	Dieback; Canker; Twig blight	<i>Botryosphaeria</i> sp./spp.	Coles, Cook
	Dieback; Tip blight; Canker	<i>Phomopsis</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
	Canker	<i>Fusarium</i> sp./spp.	Williamson TN
	Fungal canker	Various	Champaign
	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Coles
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Champaign, Cook, Williamson TN
Maple	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Bureau
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Vermilion
Pin Oak	Fungal canker	Various	Iroquois
	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Iroquois
Oak	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Bureau
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Bureau
Weeping Redbud	Cultural/environmental problem: deep planting	None	Champaign
Serviceberry	Rhizoctonia root rot	<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
	Phytophthora root rot	<i>Phytophthora</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Champaign
Tulip Poplar	Plant growth regulator herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Peoria
Winterhazel	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Champaign
Needed Woody Ornamentals			
Arborvitae	Lesion nematodes	<i>Pratylenchus</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
	Needle blight	<i>Phyllosticta thujae</i>	Cook
	Needle blight; Tip blight	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> sp./spp.	Cook
	Phytophthora root rot	<i>Phytophthora</i> sp./spp.	McLean
	Spider mites	Family Tetranychidae	Cook
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Cook

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Cedar	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	St. Louis MO
Douglas Fir	Swiss needle cast	<i>Phaeocryptopus gaeumanni</i>	Champaign
Falsecypress	Dieback; Canker	<i>Seiridium</i> sp./spp.	Cook
	Needle blight	<i>Phyllosticta</i> sp./spp.	Cook
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Cook
White Fir	Needle blight	<i>Phyllosticta</i> sp./spp.	Kankakee
Juniper	Phytophthora root rot	<i>Phytophthora</i> sp./spp.	Cook
Norfolk Pine	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Cook
Austrian Pine	Diplodia tip blight; Canker	<i>Diplodia sapinea</i>	Sangamon
	Red band needle blight	<i>Dothistroma septosporum</i>	Sangamon
White Pine	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Sangamon
Colorado Spruce	Rhizosphaera needle blight	<i>Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii</i>	Champaign, Tazewell
	Stigmata needle blight	<i>Stigmata lautii</i>	Champaign, Tazewell
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Lake, Ogle
Norway Spruce	Cytospora canker; Dieback (suspected)	<i>Cytospora</i> sp./spp.	Will
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Putnam, Woodford
Spruce	Rhizosphaera needle blight	<i>Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii</i>	Cook, Lake
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Cook, Lake, Sangamon
Yew	Cryptocline needle blight	<i>Cryptocline taxicola</i>	Champaign
	Twig blight	<i>Pestalotiopsis funereal</i>	Champaign
Herbaceous Ornamentals			
Buttercup	Aphids	Family Aphididae	Champaign
	Olpidium	<i>Olpidium</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
	Pythium root and crown rot (suspected)	<i>Pythium</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
Dahlia	Dahlia Mosaic Virus (suspected)	Dahlia Mosaic Virus	DuPage
Double Impatiens	Downy mildew	<i>Plasmopara obducens</i>	Effingham
English Ivy	Anthracoise; Leaf Spot	<i>Colletotrichum trichellum</i>	Saint Clair
	Aerial blight	<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp./spp.	Saint Clair
Lily	Bacterial soft rot	<i>Erwinia</i> sp./spp.	Champaign
Surfinia	Tobacco Mosaic Virus	Tobacco Mosaic Virus	Effingham
Fruits and Vegetables			
Beets	Pythium root and crown rot	<i>Pythium aphanidermatum</i>	Unknown

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Cucumber	Thrips	Family Thripidae	McHenry
	Mites	Order Acari	McHenry
	Chemical/environmental problem (suspected)	None	McHenry
Lettuce	Pythium root and crown rot	<i>Pythium coloratum</i> , <i>P. dissotocum</i> , <i>P. oopapillum</i>	Unknown
	Nutrient deficiency (suspected)	None	Cook
Pepper	Phytophthora root/stem/crown rot	<i>Phytophthora</i> sp./spp.	Will
Spinach	Pythium root and crown rot	<i>Pythium coloratum</i> , <i>P. dissotocum</i>	Unknown
Tomato	Pythium canker	<i>Pythium</i> sp./spp.	McHenry
	Bacterial speck	<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>tomato</i>	Lake
	Oedema/Edema	None	McHenry
	Chemical/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Crawford
Vegetables (mixed)	Pythium damping off	<i>Pythium</i> sp./spp.	McHenry
Peach	Shothole	<i>Wilsonomyces</i> sp./spp.	Calhoun
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Calhoun
Strawberry	Botrytis blight	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>	Adams
	Black root rot complex	Various	Wayne
	Aphids	Family Aphididae	Wayne
	Thrips	Family Thripidae	Wayne
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Adams
Pecan	Scab (suspected)	<i>Fusicladium caryigenum</i>	Macoupin
Field Crops			
Corn	PPO Inhibitor herbicide contact (suspected)	None	Kankakee
Soybean	Nutrient deficiency (suspected)	None	Champaign
Wheat	Pythium root and/or crown rot	<i>Pythium</i> sp./spp.	Fayette, Gallatin
	Rhizoctonia stem and root rot	<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp./spp.	Gallatin
	Septoria leaf spot	<i>Septoria tritici</i>	Fayette, Perry
	Cultural/environmental problem (suspected)	None	Gallatin

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NOTES

In the first few months of 2023 we have received a much larger number of Japanese maple samples compared with other years. We have found a variety of different fungal canker pathogens in the samples. Most fungal cankers are considered stress pathogens as they are predominantly found on stressed trees and shrubs. Canker fungi can girdle twigs and branches, leading to dieback and decline. No pesticides have been found to be effective, and wound dressings are not recommended. The best management for cankers is prevention. We recommend increasing plant vitality by watering and fertilizing as appropriate, pruning out dead wood during dry weather, and mulching around the base of the plants.

We have observed several ornamental samples displaying symptoms that are indicative of herbicide injury caused by plant growth regulators. These symptoms include twisted, curled, and distorted veins and tissues, elongated leaves, and wavy leaf margins. For more information about plant growth regulator herbicide injury, please see: https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pc_factsheet_on_pgr_herbicide_injury.pdf

The majority of the samples diagnosed with Pythium were from hydroponic or indoor growing facilities. The occurrence of Pythium infections is particularly prevalent in these controlled environments, due to their high humidity and continuous availability of water which create favorable conditions for Pythium development and spread. Recommendations for controlling Pythium in hydroponic and indoor growing facilities are to implement strict sanitation practices and employ preventive measures, such as using sterile growing media, a pathogen-free irrigation system, and pesticide treatments as needed.

The University of Illinois Plant Clinic is the federally designated plant diagnostic laboratory for the state of Illinois and is a member laboratory of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). We are an Extension program housed in the Department of Crop Sciences. The Plant Clinic is supported by NPDN grant monies, USDA-NIFA-CPPM grant monies, Extension support, Departmental personnel and building space, and service fees.

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