



Dr. Sharon M. Douglas
Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, P. O. Box 1106
New Haven, CT 06504

Phone: (203) 974--8601
Fax: (203) 974-8502
Email: Sharon.Douglas@po.state.ct.us

LIST OF COMMON DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS OF RHODODENDRONS

There are pest problems on rhododendron that occur almost every year in Connecticut.

I. COMMON PROBLEMS

A. BIOTIC PROBLEMS: (caused by living agents)

1. Diseases
2. Insects

B. ABIOTIC PROBLEMS: (caused by nonliving agents)

1. Cultural
2. Environmental

II. PEST CONTROL

A. ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS:

B. SEVERITY OF PROBLEM:

1. Nature of pest problem (i.e., type of insect or disease)
2. Level of disease or infestation (i.e., loss threshold)

C. CONTROL OPTIONS:

1. Culture-

this includes cultural methods that modify the plant's growing conditions; maintaining plant vigor by proper watering, fertilizing, appropriately timed pruning and transplanting, adequate spacing, improving the tilth of the soil, adjusting soil pH;

2. Sanitation-

this involves use of healthy, disease-free cuttings or plants; pruning of affect plant parts; raking and removing affected plant parts such as fallen leaves; disinfecting tools such as pruning shears and spades;

3. Resistance-

this involves use of resistant cultivars, when available;

4. Chemical-

this involves proper selection and timing of pesticides which are registered for use in control of specific diseases or insect pests

III. DISEASES CAUSED BY FUNGI

A. ROOT ROTTS:

1. Phytophthora Root Rot-
Phytophthora cinnamomi
Phytophthora spp.
2. Armillaria Root Rot-
Armillaria mellea
3. Damping-off and Root Rot-
Pythium spp.
Rhizoctonia solani

B. DIEBACKS, BLIGHTS, AND LEAF SPOTS:

1. Botryosphaeria Dieback-
Botryosphaeria dothidea
2. Phomopsis Dieback-
Phomopsis spp.
3. Phytophthora Dieback-
Phytophthora spp.
4. Leaf and Flower Gall-
Exobasidium spp.
5. Powdery Mildew-
Microsphaera penicillata
Sphaerotheca pannosa
Erysiphe cruciferarum
6. Leaf Spots-
many different fungi
7. Rusts-
**Chrysomyxa* spp. (10 species)
Aecidium spp. (2 species)
**Pucciniastrum* spp. (1 species)
Puccinia spp. (1 species)
* reported in United States

IV. DISEASES CAUSED BY BACTERIA

- A. Crown Gall:
Agrobacterium tumefaciens

V. DISEASES CAUSED BY VIRUSES

- A. Rhododendron Necrotic Ringspot Virus

VI. INSECT PESTS

- A. Black Vine Weevil:
Otiorhynchus sulcatus

- B. Rhododendron Borer:
Synanthedon rhododendri
- C. Rhododendron Tip Midge:
Clinodiplosis rhododendri

VII. ABIOTIC PROBLEMS

- A. Winter Injury and/or Drying
- B. Nutrient Deficiencies

VIII. UNUSUAL PROBLEMS

- A. Leaf Flooding
- B. Vole Injury

December 1997 (revised)