

Forest Pest Bulletin



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF RESOURCE
CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

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ASH RUST

CAUSAL AGENT

Puccinia sparganioides

HOSTS

Ash rust attacks all Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) species and has been reported to infect Swamp-privet (*Forestiera* spp.) though these species have not appeared affected in South Dakota. Ash rust has alternate hosts that include several species of Cordgrass (*Spartina*). Spores are released from the grasses in the spring to infect the Ash trees. In late summer the spores of Ash rust are dispersed from the Ash trees and infect the Cordgrass. Ash rust appears to be most common and severe in areas that experience wet or foggy weather during late spring.

SYMPTOMS

Yellow-orange spots begin forming on leaves in late May to early June (Fig. 1). At the same time the petiole becomes distorted or bent. Numerous cup-shaped aecia begin to form on the petiole giving it a warty gall-like shape. These same structures occur on the underside of the infected leaves. Trees with severe infections appear scorched, and affected leaves often drop prematurely often by mid-June.



Figure 1. Leaf distortion with orange-yellow spots.
Edward L. Barnard, Florida
Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services,
www.forestryimages.org

LIFE CYCLE

Ash rust requires two different host plants to complete its life cycle, Ash and Cordgrass. Spores are released from the grasses during the spring with infection of ash taking place during warm, wet weather.

MANAGEMENT

This disease seldom requires control, as the infection rarely occurs in successive years on the same tree. However, if a tree has been repeatedly affected, an

application of Myclobutanil in early spring just as the leaves are opening can be used to reduce the severity of the disease.

Due to numerous pesticide labels and/or label changes, be sure the product label includes the intended use prior to purchase or use. Please read and follow all pesticide label instructions and wear the protective equipment required. Spraying pesticides overhead increases the risk of exposure to the applicator and increases the likelihood of drift to non-target areas. Consider the use of a commercial applicator when spraying large trees due to the added risk of exposure and equipment needs. The mention of a specific product name does not constitute endorsement of that product by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

For further information contact your nearest South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry office. Hot Springs 605-745-5820; Lead 605-584-2300; Mitchell 605-995-8189; Pierre 605-773-3623; Rapid City 605-394-2395; Sioux Falls 605-362-2830; Watertown 605-882-5367.

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