



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Plant Pathology,
Forestry & Entomology Fact Sheet

PPFS-OR-W-31
FORFS-21-03
ENTfact-461

Common Problems of Common Shrubs — An Index —

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INTRODUCTION

Shrubs are an important part of landscapes and woodlands. However, shrubs may experience a wide range of issues including disease, insects, and abiotic disorders. This publication includes the most frequently observed problems of common shrubs in Kentucky listed in alphabetical order (not necessarily in order of importance). Contact a local county Extension agent for assistance with diagnosing and managing these and other problems.

Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Boxwood <i>Buxus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boxwood blight ▪ Macrophoma dieback ▪ Volutella blight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boxwood leafminer ▪ Boxwood psyllid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winter injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boxwood rust mite ▪ Boxwood spider mite ▪ Four lined plant bug
Dogwood shrubs (Gray, Red osier, Silky, etc.) <i>Cornus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anthracnose ▪ Botryosphaeria & other cankers ▪ Powdery mildew ▪ Root rots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dogwood borer ▪ Granulate ambrosia beetle 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dogwood sawfly larvae ▪ Leaf miners ▪ Scale insects ▪ Various leaf spots



ROSE ROSETTE VIRUS



APHIDS



IRON DEFICIENCY

Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Euonymus <i>Euonymus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Powdery mildew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Euonymus scale 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black vine weevil ▪ Crown gall ▪ Spider mites ▪ Non-native burning bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>) is invasive in Kentucky.
Holly <i>Ilex</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black root rot ▪ Pythium root rot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cottony camellia scale ▪ Holly leafminers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nutritional issues ▪ Soil pH (iron deficiency) ▪ Wet feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black vine weevil ▪ Holly pit scale ▪ Holly scale ▪ Phytophthora root rot ▪ Southern red mite
Hydrangea <i>Hydrangea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cercospora leaf spot ▪ Powdery mildew 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winter injury to flower buds (failure to bloom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aphids ▪ Armillaria root rot ▪ Bacterial leaf spot ▪ Oystershell scale ▪ Rust ▪ Spider mites ▪ White flies
Juniper <i>Juniperus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gymnosporangium rusts (cedar-apple rust, cedar-quince rust) ▪ Kabatina twig blight ▪ Phomopsis tip blight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bagworm ▪ Spider mites 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Botryosphaeria canker ▪ Minute juniper scale ▪ Phytophthora root rot ▪ Spruce spider mite
Lilac <i>Syringa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial blight ▪ Powdery mildew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lilac borer ▪ Oystershell scale 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black vine weevil
Rhododendron & Azalea <i>Rhododendron</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Botryosphaeria canker ▪ Phytophthora dieback/blight ▪ Phytophthora root rot ▪ Various fungal leaf spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Azalea lace bug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iron chlorosis/high soil pH ▪ Wet feet ▪ Winter injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Azalea caterpillars ▪ Black vine weevil ▪ Leaf & flower galls ▪ Leafminers ▪ Leaf rust ▪ Mites ▪ Ovulina petal blight ▪ Scale insects
Rose <i>Rosa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black spot ▪ Powdery mildew ▪ Rose canker ▪ Rose rosette virus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Japanese beetle ▪ Rose slug 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winter injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Downy mildew ▪ Herbicide damage ▪ Leaf cutter bees ▪ Mites ▪ Rose chafer ▪ Thrips
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire blight ▪ Gymnosporangium rusts (cedar-apple rust, cedar-quince rust) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aphids ▪ Borers ▪ Japanese beetles ▪ Leaf miners ▪ Pear slug sawfly ▪ Powdery mildew ▪ Scale insects ▪ Spider mites ▪ Various leaf spots

Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Spicebush <i>Lindera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laurel wilt disease 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transplant shock 	
Taxus <i>Taxus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phytophthora root & crown rot 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil pH issues Wet feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black vine weevil Mealybugs Sapsucker
Viburnum <i>Viburnum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botryosphaeria canker Various leaf spots 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aphids Clearwing borer Downy mildew Mites Powdery mildew Root weevils Sapsucker (major wildlife problem) Scale insects Thrips
Potential problems that can affect all shrub species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaf scorch Root rot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aphids Bagworms Black vine weevil Japanese beetles Scale insects Spider mites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental stress¹ Insufficient drainage Soil compaction Soil pH issues Winter damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improper planting² Transplant shock

¹ Environmental stresses can include drought, wet soil, weather extremes, etc.

² Improper planting practices can include unfavorable planting site, inadequate site preparation, incorrect planting depth (either too deep or too shallow), planting hole too small, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Department of Entomology Website
<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/landscape>
- Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Website
<https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/extension-home>
- Department of Horticulture Website
<https://www.uky.edu/hort/home-horticulture>
- Department of Plant Pathology Website
<http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>

July 2021

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Brenda Kennedy, University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostician, and Cliff Sadof, Purdue University Extension Entomologist, for their reviews of this publication.

Editor: Cheryl Kaiser, Plant Plant Extension Support

Photos: University of Kentucky—Nicole Gauthier (rose rosette virus) and Winston Dunwell (iron chlorosis); Bugwood.org—Clemson University – USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series (aphids)

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