

1963

EC63-1834 Plant Diseases...Cedar Blight

John Weihing

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

Weihing, John, "EC63-1834 Plant Diseases...Cedar Blight" (1963). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 3650.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/3650>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



AGRI
85
E7
H63
1834

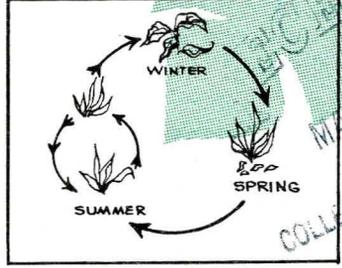
PLANT DISEASES

EC 63-1834

JOHN L. WEIHING

Extension Plant Pathologist

MAR 31 1964
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



CEDAR BLIGHT

"Cedar blight" or "juniper blight" is widespread in Nebraska, probably being present at one season or another wherever redcedar is grown. It is especially prevalent in closely spaced ornamental plantings. The disease is most serious in wet seasons.

Symptoms: The first indication of the disease is a browning and dying back of branch tips. Close examination of the area where the live and dead portions of the branch join reveals a small grayish canker girdling the stem. Embedded in the cankerous tissue are very small, dark colored dots. An infected branch is usually structurally weakened in the cankered area and will frequently break off or bend over at that point. A single infection may eventually kill a small branch, but it requires numerous infections to kill a large branch. Trees that are subjected to heavy reinfection for several consecutive years may contain numerous dead branches or the entire tree may be killed.

Cedar blight is frequently confused with weather injury or red spider damage. Red spider causes a dying of the foliage from inside the tree towards the outside. In contrast, cedar blight starts at the outside and progresses inward. It is very difficult to distinguish between weather injury and blight since both cause a die-back of branch tips. The finding of cankers peppered with small black dots is strongly indicative that the cause is blight.

Cause: Cedar blight is caused by a fungus (*Phomopsis juniperovora*). The small black dots embedded in the cancerous tissues are fruiting structures of the organism. During wet weather, spores ooze out of these tiny fruiting structures. Wind, rain, insects and workers spread the spores to uninfected plants and branches.

Control: Frequent application of phenyl mercury compounds such as Puratized Agricultural Spray or PMAS will control blight. The proportions are one pint in 100 gallons of water or one teaspoonful in one gallon of water. The first application should be made when new growth starts in the spring and succeeding applications made at two-week intervals until around the first of July.

The use of resistant varieties offers considerable promise in avoiding blight. Those junipers possessing resistance are *Juniperus virginiana* var. *pyramidiformis* (known as the "Dundee" or "Hill Dundee" juniper), *J. virginiana* var. *canert* and *J. chinensis* var. *keteleeri*.

Blight can do more damage to trimmed than to untrimmed cedars. This is because trimming stimulates the cedar to put on comparatively more new growth than if it were untrimmed. The blight fungus can grow in young, expanding tissues, girdling the twig. In older tissues, the fungus tends to be confined to the needle where infection took place.