

Forest Pest Bulletin



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 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 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.

LIFE CYCLE

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

CONTROL

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.



Figure 1. Leaf distortion with orange-yellow spots.

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Consumer Services,
www.forestryimages.org

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.

For further information contact your nearest South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry office. Hot Springs 605-745-5820; Huron 605-353-7187; 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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