

# Heads UP!

## Welcome

...to the June 2015 edition of:

### Heads UP!

It covers the month of June 2015. As we mentioned in the inaugural edition, our goal is to provide you information about the plant problems we see at the Diagnostic Lab this time of year so you can better serve your clients at your Master Gardener clinics.

You see and handle a myriad of plant problems in your clinics. We are sharing the data that we have collected and compiled on the plant problems you have referred to us. This is the record, over the last 3 years, of the more problematical samples. We are also supplying you links to pertinent information on these plant problems from every Master Gardener's "go-to" resource, [WSU Hortsense](#).

Last year there were 418 plant samples sent to the Master Gardener Diagnostic Lab. In June alone, we processed 97 of those samples or 23% of the total (in 2012 we processed 20% of our total samples for the year in June and in 2013 we processed a whopping 24%). June is a busy month. We hope this helps you prepare yourselves to answer questions about these inevitable plant problems!

When we receive a plant sample in the lab we typically start by determining if the plant is being affected by:

1. Cultural conditions, a
2. Fungal disease or
3. Insect attack.

We also consider bacterial or viral infections, as well as plant or insect identification. We don't, however, look at turf problems or any submissions by commercial gardeners.

In the past three years, in June alone, cultural problems accounted for 18%; fungal problems added another 37% and insects added 14% of the total plant problems we saw. These three biggies together accounted for nearly 70% of the plant problems sent to the Diagnostic Lab. Our focus will be on them for this edition of “**Heads Up.**”

We are sharing the most prevalent plant and plant family problems in order of frequency.

In June you might expect to see:

- Prunus (spp.) including cherry, laurel, peach and plum.
  - The biggest problems for cherries (ornamental and/or fruit) may be [brown rot](#): [shothole](#) and [tent caterpillars](#).
  - Laurels have [shothole](#), [weevils](#) and [cultural](#) (mostly sun) problems.
  - Peaches have [shothole](#) and [stinkbug](#) issues.
  - Plums have [brown rot](#).
- Acer (spp.) including all maples but especially Japanese (palmatum) maples.
  - The most troublesome problem for maples in June is the emergence of [verticillium wilt](#) which ultimately will kill the tree. **Note** that if you have a knife in your clinic, cut a vertical slice just under the bark of the maple sample. If you detect black streaking, that’s a sign of verticillium wilt. Because this is a soil-borne pathogen, planting another maple in the same location would be inappropriate. There are a host of other plants that are susceptible to verticillium wilt.
  - Another major problem for Acer (spp.) appearing in June is [anthracnose](#).
  - Acer (spp.) shows signs of [bladdergall \(eriophyid\) mites](#). If you see this type of galls on submitted samples, you might suggest ladybeetles as an effective control.
  - We also see chemical and winter (**cultural**) damage appearing in June to maples.
- Rhododendrons, including azaleas, are on the list again for this month, as in April and May.
  - Azaleas are affected with [leaf gall](#).
  - For rhodies, all kinds of **cultural** problems appear including algae, signs of the past winter harshness and summer drought.
  - Rhododendrons also show signs of [powdery mildew](#)
  - and [lace bugs](#).

- Malus (spp.) including apples, crabapples and quinces.
  - Affecting apples, crabapples and quince is [scab](#).
  - Beware of [aphids](#) on apples in June.
- Dogwoods show signs of [anthracnose](#). A Kousa Dogwood has resistance to this pathogen.
  - Pyrus (spp.) including ornamental and fruiting pears. The biggest problem this time of year for pears, is [Pacific Coast pear rust](#). This can be relatively easy to identify by the orange lesions on the leaves (or fruit later in the season).

As mentioned in the first edition of “**Heads Up**”, we try to email our diagnostic responses to clients with a copy going to clinic CICs whenever possible. Please help us by ensuring there is a readable email address for your client, as well as your clinic name, on the plant problem submission form that you include with any plant sample you send to us in the Diagnostic Lab.

That’s all for the second edition of “**Heads Up**”. We hope that we have provided you with useful information to use in your clinic for the coming month of June. If you didn’t get a copy of the first “**Heads Up**” for April and May, and would like one please email the Diagnostic Lab. We will be able to send one on to you. Let us know your opinions on “**Heads Up**” and how we can improve it for you.

King County Master Gardener Diagnostic Lab

[Diagnostic.clinic@WSU.edu](mailto:Diagnostic.clinic@WSU.edu)

[\(206\) 221-2537](tel:(206)221-2537)