



Forsythia Galls

Introduction

Unightly galls developing on forsythia not only detract from the appearance of the trees, but weaken and eventually kill affected branches.

Symptoms

Galls appear as clumps of nodule-like growths on shoots of affected forsythia (Figs. 1 and 2). Symptoms are most noticeable when foliage is absent. Branch material beyond the galls usually becomes weak and eventually dies.



Figure 1: Galls on forsythia branches.

Disease Cycle

No definite cause of these galls has been determined. They have been suspected of being caused by either

the bacterium that causes Crown Gall (*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*) or by a species of the fungus *Phomopsis*. A possible genetic abnormality has been suspected. We have observed these galls to develop several years after apparently healthy forsythia were planted---where the initial planting had reached a mature size and spread out naturally, but where no new forsythia had been added.



Figure 2: Closer view of galls on forsythia branches.

Management Strategies

Prune off and destroy affected branches. Disinfect tools between cuts. If replacing the plant, choose one showing no evidence of gall formation.

Created, KLS, 8/99; Updated, SLJ 2/15

READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE! Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly. All pesticides distributed, sold, and/or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist or your regional DEC office.

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