

Problem: Seiridium Canker of Oriental Arborvitae - *Seiridium unicorne*



Host Plants: Oriental Arborvitae

Description: Canker diseases result in the formation of distinct, sunken lesions on the bark of woody plants. Cankers restrict water and nutrient movement and may ultimately lead to branch dieback and tree death. Seiridium canker is a serious disease, occurring on Oriental arborvitae throughout Kansas. The symptoms for this disease are frequently confused with winter-related injuries.

Seiridium canker, caused by the fungus *Seiridium unicorne*, occurs on Oriental arborvitae, bald-cypress, Arizona, Italian and Leyland cypresses, and occasionally junipers. Symptoms of the disease are similar to Botryosphaeria canker. Elongated, flattened cankers form on small branches and main stems. Bleeding or resin formation in cankers is common. Multiple coalescing branch and stem cankers may cause branch dieback, or in some cases, tree death.

Recommendations: Seiridium canker tends to be associated with trees suffering from winter damage, drought, or other environmental stresses. Suppress canker development by irrigation and protection from winter desiccation. Prune cankered branches from the tree and destroy them.

References:

1. [Tree & Shrub Problems in Kansas](#), K-State Research & Extension, MF3132, page 21

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