
The Mustard Seed by Anna Duncan



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Cedar Hawthorn Rust

Have you noticed many of the Bradford Pear trees in the area looking lack-luster this summer? I have. Some of them seem to be browning like they would normally in late fall. If you look around these browned trees, you will probably find a tree from the juniper family. Cedars, Leyland Cypresses, and others are the perfect hosts for the *Gymnosporangium clavipes* fungus. This fungus causes cedar hawthorn rust- the browning or rusting of the Bradford Pears we are seeing.

If you look closely at these infected trees, the fruits may be shriveled and black or some may still show the orange rust spores from the initial infection. If you inspect the junipers in the area, you might also find the brown, pitted galls that protected these spores all winter long before they were released in the spring. These galls do no harm to the juniper, but it makes the juniper an enemy of susceptible trees in the area.

This fungus has taken advantage of our preference for landscaping plants. It requires both species to survive, and we plant them close together often. Be mindful of this when making your planting selections in the future.

If you see the galls developing on your junipers, you can trim and dispose of them. If you have an active infection, the best practice is to prune the affected areas in the winter when the trees are dormant being careful to disinfect your tools as you go. Dispose of the debris from this pruning as well as any fallen leaves. In the spring, you can spray your trees with a fungicide to prevent future infections. Contact the UT/TSU Extension Office for more information.



Cedar Hawthorn Rust. -UT Soil, Plant, and Pest Center

