R. Kenneth Horst

# Field Manual of Diseases on Trees and Shrubs



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#### **Preface**

The information in this manual is taken in large part from the records of the Plant Disease Survey as given in the *Plant Disease Reporter*, *Plant Disease*, and from the *Index of Plant Diseases in the United States*, *Agriculture Handbook 165*, U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are a great many records that bring in new reports every day, and any such list is out of date by the time it is published, and is sure to be far from complete. This check list is offered as a helpful guide, a foundation on which to build. It is by no means the last word.

Hosts are listed alphabetically by common names except where the scientific names mean less confusion. The diseases are those mostly reported from North, Central, and South America.

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# Part I



Plate 1 Lethal Yellowing on Coconut Palm caused by a Phytoplasma pathogen



Plate 2 Cedar-Apple Rust on Apple caused by Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae



Plate 3 Cedar-Apple Rust on Cedar caused by Gymnosporangium juniperi



Plate 4 Mosaic on Rose caused by Prunus Necrotic Ringspot Virus



Plate 5 Phyllody on Hydrangea caused by a Phytoplasma Pathogen



Plate 6 Oak Anthracnose

**Plate 7** Black Knot on *Prunus* sp.



Plate 8 Botrytis Petal Spot on Magnolia





Plate 9 Azalea Leaf Gall

**Plate 10** Phyllosticta Leaf Spot on Mountain-Laurel





Plate 11 Mistletoe, Common in Southern trees

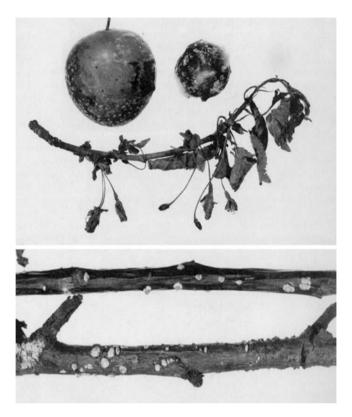


Plate 12 Brown Rot of Plums

# Part II

### **Disease Control and Management**

Control of a plant disease means reduction in the amount of damage caused. Our present annual toll from disease is nearly four billion dollars. Perfect control is rare, but profitable control, when the increased yield more than covers the cost of chemicals and labor, is quite possible. Commercial growers now average a return of four dollars for each dollar so invested. Keeping home plantings ornamental yields a large return in satisfaction and increased property value.

The five fundamental principles of control are exclusion, eradication, protection, resistance, and therapy.

- 1. *Exclusion* means preventing the entrance and establishment of pathogens in uninfested gardens, states, or countries. For home gardeners it means using certified seed or plants, sorting bulbs before planting, discarding any that are doubtful, possibly treating seeds or tubers or corms before they are planted, and, most especially, refusing obviously diseased specimens from nurseryman or dealer. For states and countries, exclusion means quarantines, prohibition by law. Sometimes restricted entry of nursery stock is allowed, the plants to be grown in isolation and inspected for 1 or 2 years before distribution is permitted.
- 2. Eradication means the elimination of a pathogen once it has become established on a plant or in a garden. It can be accomplished by removal of diseased specimens, or parts, as in roguing to control virus diseases or cutting off cankered tree limbs; by cultivating to keep down weed hosts and deep ploughing or spading to bury diseased plant debris; by rotation of susceptible with nonsusceptible crops to starve out the pathogen; and by disinfection, usually by chemicals, sometimes by heat treatment. Spraying or dusting foliage with sulfur after mildew mycelium is present is eradication, and so is treating the soil with chloropicrin to kill nematodes and fungi.
- 3. *Protection* is the interposition of some protective barrier between the susceptible part of the suscept or host and the pathogen. In most instances this is a protective spray or dust applied to the plant in advance of the arrival of the fungus spore; sometimes it means killing insects or other inoculating agents; sometimes it means the erection of a windbreak or other mechanical barrier.