



Plant Pathology: Extension & Outreach: Plant Disease Library

Common fig rust - *Cerotelium fici*

Fig - *Ficus sp.*



Disease Symptoms:

Tiny yellow spots develop on the undersides of the leaves. They enlarge to form reddish brown angular spots visible on lower and upper leaf surfaces approximately 0.5 cm - 1 cm in diameter. Leaves are the only plant part affected. When disease is severe, yellowing and defoliation can occur in late summer and early autumn. New leaves then produced by the tree are at risk from damage by frost.



Fruiting structures can be seen within the spots on the undersides of the leaves. Only the uredinial stage is known in the U.S. Uredinia are initially cream to salmon color later turning yellow.



Uredospores are cream to white in color and are produced in short chains. Under 400x magnification they are verrucose (covered with wart-like projections), faintly orange and round to oblong in shape.

Disease Management:

Avoid wetting the leaves when watering as free moisture on the foliage favors infection and spread of the disease. Selective pruning of overgrown plants can improve air circulation and reduce disease incidence. Remove fallen leaves and debris to reduce inoculum. No fungicides are specifically labeled to control this disease on fig. Fortunately, fungicidal control usually is not necessary.

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