

# RUST

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Peach leaf rust, caused by fungi in the genus *Tranzschelia*, is fairly common in southeastern fall-line and coastal plain production areas; it is less common in cooler production areas. Usually rust symptoms do not appear until early fall. Peach leaf rust is first noticed as pale yellowish spots on both surfaces of the leaf that later become bright yellow. On the bottom of the leaf, the spots gradually enlarge and turn orange. Finally, they swell and crack open to release masses of rusty brown fungus spores (uredospores) (Figure 1). Defoliation may occur when the leaves are severely infected.

In the Southeast, peach leaf rust is a minor disease. It is seldom serious enough to require special control measures. Where peach leaf rust is severe, use of demethylation-inhibiting fungicides as part of a normal spray program may reduce severity.



**Figure 1.** Peach leaf rust.

## REFERENCES

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