

Field Guide to Coffee Leaf Rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*)

Coffee leaf rust is a fungal disease caused by *Hemileia vastatrix*. Hosts of note include but are not limited to *Coffea* spp. (worldwide) and *Gardenia* spp. (in South Africa). Symptoms appear first on the upper leaf surface and then the lower surface of leaves. Severe infections may lead to premature leaf drop, yield reduction, twig dieback, and tree death (Arneson, 2000)*.

LOOK FOR: Orangeish to yellow-orangeish circular spots or lesions on leaves.



RECTANGLES: As spots expand or form, they may join together or overlap to form large irregular shapes.

CIRCLES: As spots age their centers may turn brown.

*Arneson, P.A. 2000. Coffee rust. *The Plant Health Instructor*. Site: <https://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/disandpath/fungalbasidio/pdlessons/Pages/CoffeeRust.aspx> DOI: 10.1094/PHI-2000-0718-02



SYMPTOMS: Seedlings may also display yellowish spots and lesions (circled).



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LOOK FOR: Early infections typically start with yellowish spots or lesions on leaves towards the plant base.





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LOOK FOR: Dropping of green leaves and bare to nearly bare branches.



PHOTOGRAPH LEAVES LIKE THESE.

LOOK FOR: Yellowish circular spots or lesions on leaves, which may or may not have brown centers.



PHOTOGRAPH LEAVES LIKE THESE.

SYMPTOM: Yellowish spots with brown centers on leaves.

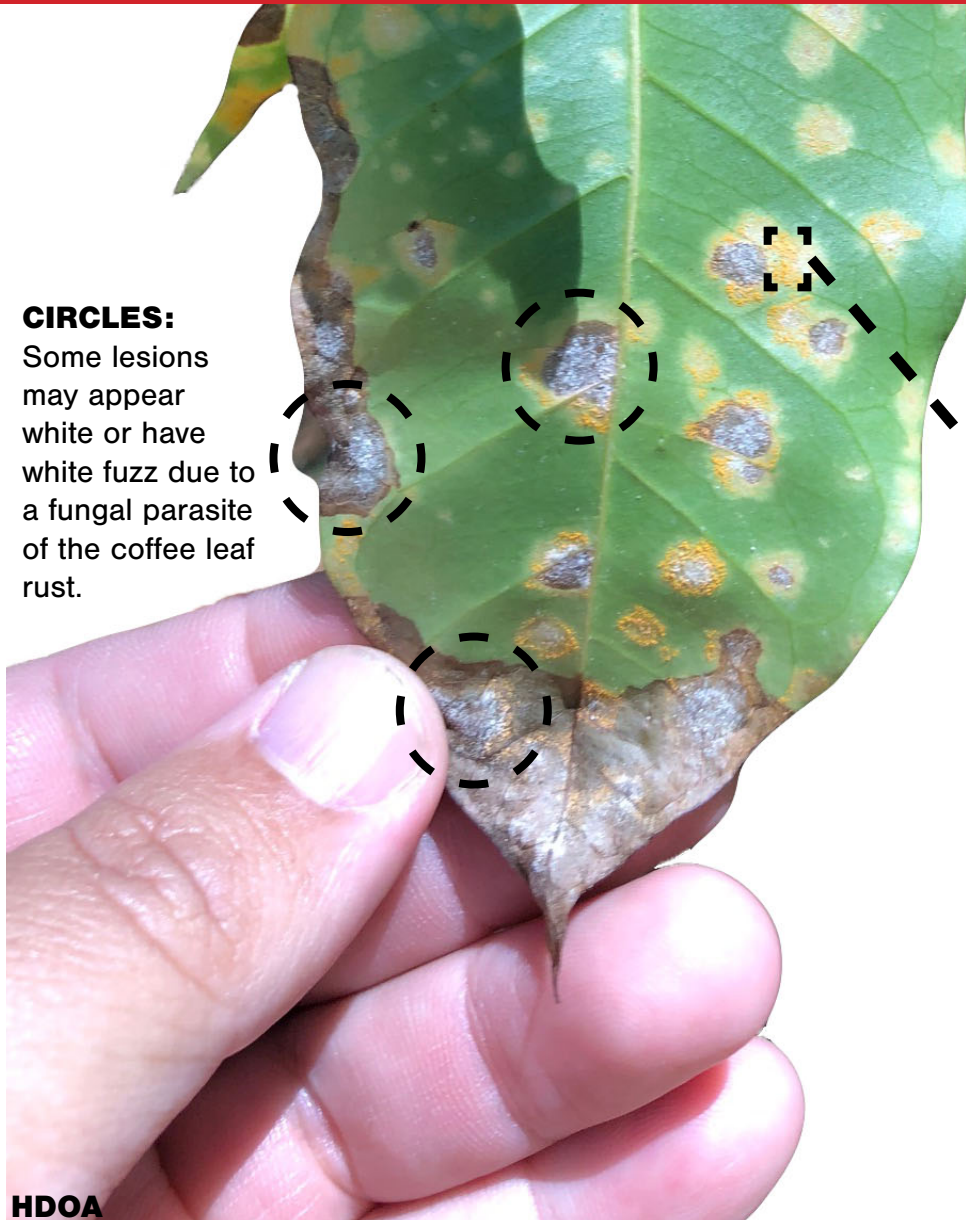


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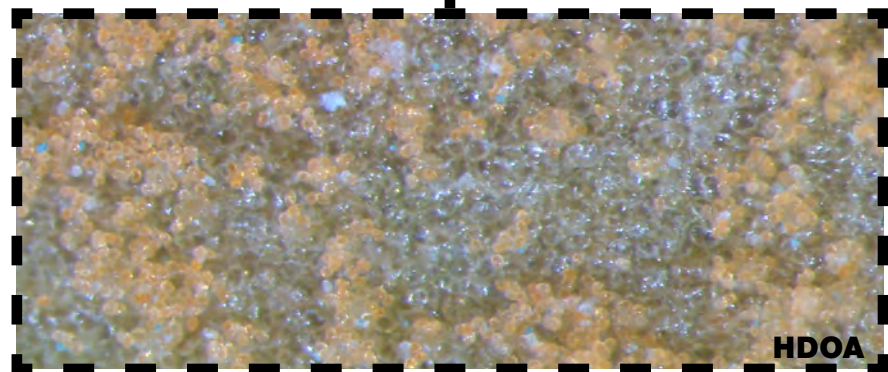
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PHOTOGRAPH LEAVES LIKE THESE.



CIRCLES:
Some lesions may appear white or have white fuzz due to a fungal parasite of the coffee leaf rust.

LOOK FOR: Clusters of orange to yellow-orange powder-like substance on the lower leaf surface below leaf spots on upper leaf surface.



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