Leaf Spots/Shot Hole Disease

FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care





Leaf spots are caused by a number of fungi or bacteria that produce lesions from tiny spots to large blotches on leaf surfaces. Spots can be circular to irregular in shape and range in color from tan to red, purple, brown or black.

What It Is:

Some spots may be two-toned or have a different colored ring around the margins or in the center of the spot. Dead tissue in the center of lesions may fall out creating a shot hole appearance or a ragged leaf.

Some leaf spot diseases produce blister like lesions or tar spots that are quite conspicuous on leaf tissue.

Spots may remain small and the plant can localize the infection so that even if lesions are numerous, little harm is done to the plant. Other pathogens might expand the lesion into large blighted areas and in severe cases, cause defoliation or premature leaf drop.

Spread of leaf spot diseases is primarily through water rather than air and will persist if conditions are favorable.

Generally, leaf spot diseases occur sporadically and cause little damage.



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Control/Prevention:

Collect fallen leaves before winter to reduce overwintering sites of the pathogen, which can invade new growth in the spring. Where the number of infected leaves is small, individual leaves can be removed or branches pruned where infections are localized.

Keep leaves as dry as possible by thinning the crown if too dense, watering in the early morning and adjusting sprinkler spray height to avoid wetting the leaves.

Space plants appropriately to reduce humidity and increase air movement. Once symptoms are exhibiting, chemical control only slows down any further spread – any existing leaf spots will not disappear.

Fungicides applied in the early spring, before the disease appears, and on a regular basis throughout the season, can provide effective control.



Contact:

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