

**Problem:** Tubakia Leaf Spot (*Tubakia dryina*)



Tubakia on Red Oak Group



Tubakia on White Oak Group



**Hosts:** Primarily oaks but also maple, hickory, chestnut, redbud, ash, tupelo, sourwood, rose, sassafras & elm.

**Description:** Members of the red oak group are more likely to be affected than those in the white oak group. Red oaks often have distinct round spots as well as dead areas that follow the veins. White oaks also have the vein necrosis and large blotches of dead tissue but lack the distinct spots. If damage is severe, leaves may drop.

Trees under stress such as that caused by drought, a high pH or especially those suffering from iron chlorosis tend to be more likely to show symptoms.

**Recommendations:** Reducing stress on the trees by timely watering, fertilizing and correcting iron chlorosis can increase the overall health of the tree. Iron chlorosis appears to make trees especially susceptible to Tubakia. Also, trees that have been recently transplanted are also more likely to develop symptoms. See the following for more information on each of these topics.

Watering Trees: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2801.pdf>

Fertilizing Trees: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf2707.pdf>

Correcting Iron Chlorosis: <https://tinyurl.com/2p7s3axe>

Practicing sanitation by removing leaves from diseased trees in the fall can reduce inoculum for the next year.

Even if all the leaves on an otherwise healthy oak are lost late in the growing season, the tree should be fine. No fungicide sprays are recommended. Concentrate on maintaining tree health.

**References:**

1. [Tubakia and Bur Oak Blight](#), Purdue University Landscape Report, November 17, 2020
2. [Tubakia Leaf Spot in Oaks](#), Iowa State University, Horticulture and Home Pest News
3. [Oak Leaf Spot](#), University of Illinois, Home, Yard & Garden Pest Newsletter, Issue 18, October 16, 2009
4. [Tubakia Actinopelte\) Leaf Spot on Oaks](#), Texas A&M, AgriLife Extension, PLPA-102

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