

Problem: Cherry Leaf Spot (*Blumeriella jaapi*)



Hosts: Economically important on sour cherry but also affects almond and dwarf Russian almond; bitter, black, Japanese flowering, mahalen, pin, sand, and sweet cherries; chokecherry; cherry laurel; and Canada, common, Japanese, and wild plums.

Description: Cherry leaf spot results in small, pinpoint lesions on the leaves. If you have a hand lens, you may be able to see a cream-colored, dry spore mass on the bottom surface of the lesion. Typically, the black spots fall out, giving the leaf a shot-hole appearance. Leaves with multiple infections turn light green, then yellow, and drop from the tree. Defoliation can reduce yields and lessen winter hardiness.

Spots first appear in the spring as the new leaves approach full size. This disease is made worse by mild, wet weather. New spots can appear through late summer.

Recommendations: To control leaf spot in the home orchard, try to remove all diseased leaves at the end of the season. During the growing season, applications of chlorothalonil (Daconil, Ortho Garden Disease Control, Fertilome Broad Spectrum Landscape & Garden Fungicide and others) should be made at bud break and a second application 10 days later (full bloom to petal fall) if conditions warrant. Do not apply between shuck split through harvest. Captan (Hi-Yield Captan, Bonide Fruit & Ornamental) and myclobutanil (Immunox, F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide, Monterey Fungi-Max) are also effective can be applied at any time other than harvest. If the disease is still active, an application after harvest and two weeks later is recommended.

References:

1. [Cherry Leaf Spot](#), Ohio State University Extension, Ohioline PLPATH-FRU-40

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