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Entomosporium Leaf Spot of Photinia

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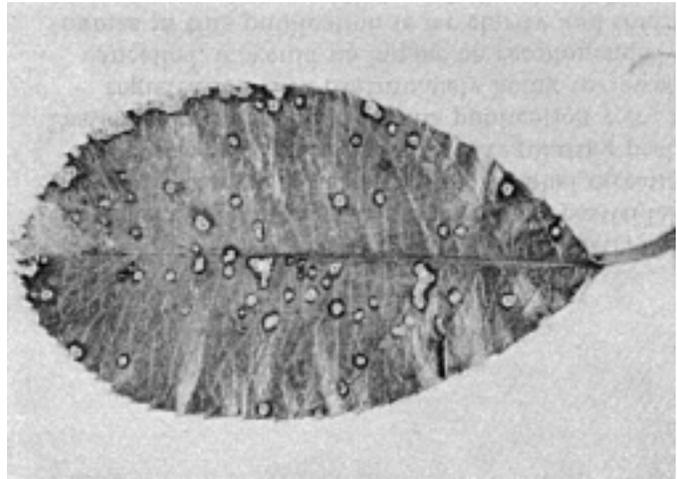
Photinia, a broad leaf evergreen, is widely grown in nurseries in **Tennessee**. It is used extensively in landscape plantings, most often in border plantings. *Photinia X fraseri* is especially popular because of its bright red immature foliage. Leaf spot caused by the fungus *Entomosporium maculatum* continues to be a persistent and destructive disease of photinia and other species in the family Rosaceae in nurseries and landscape beds. This disease is most often reported on red-tip photinia (*P. X fraseri*).

Symptoms

Leaf spots on photinia are at first very small, slightly raised spots on either surface of the leaf. Older spots have a slightly depressed brown center with dark red, raised margins. On heavily infected leaves, spots may grow together and form large lesions that lead to premature defoliation. The disease is usually limited to the leaf blades, but occasionally may occur on petioles and succulent twigs.

Disease Cycle

In the spring, symptoms first appear on the new growth of the lowest branches and the disease spreads upward. The fungus over-winters on infected twigs and fallen infected leaves from the previous year. Spores from the twigs and fallen leaves are splashed onto the plants by rainwater and overhead irrigation. High humidity, cool temperatures and crowded conditions favor disease development. Container-grown plants are more likely to be damaged by the disease than field-grown stock or landscape plants.



Control

For successful control of leafspots, a good spray program, along with sanitation and pruning, is necessary. Diseased plants should be pruned in the spring before new growth appears. Also, if possible, fallen leaves should be removed and burned. Cuttings should only be taken from disease-free stock plants. If liners are purchased, they should be carefully inspected for disease symptoms. Container-grown plants should be widely spaced to encourage good air movement and rapid foliage drying.

If Entomosporium leaf spot has been a problem on container plants, fungicide sprays should be applied to the foliage as soon as new growth appears and continued at seven to 10-day intervals. Fungicides that have been shown to be highly effective against this disease are Banner, Immunex, Funginex[®], Zyban[®] and Daconil 2787.[®]

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENT

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label. Pesticides recommended in this publication were registered for the prescribed uses when printed. Pesticide registrations are continuously being reviewed. Should registration of a recommended pesticide be cancelled, it would no longer be recommended by the University of Tennessee. Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product.



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Billy G. Hicks, Dean