

Purdue University

**Purdue e-Pubs**

---

Historical Documents of the Purdue  
Cooperative Extension Service

Department of Agricultural Communication

---

5-1-1980

## Cherry Leaf Spot Disease

Paul C. Pecknold

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/agext>

Plant Disease Control

---

Pecknold, Paul C., "Cherry Leaf Spot Disease" (1980). *Historical Documents of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service*. Paper 433.

<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/agext/433>

For current publications, please contact the Education Store: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/>

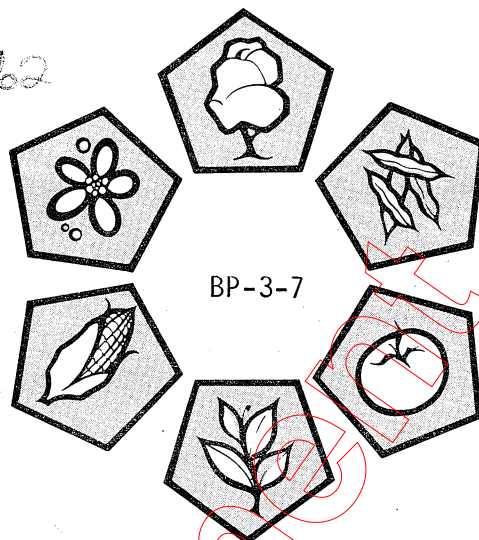
This document is provided for historical reference purposes only and should not be considered to be a practical reference or to contain information reflective of current understanding. For additional information, please contact the Department of Agricultural Communication at Purdue University, College of Agriculture: <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/agcomm>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

Adm - Yes  
Replaces 62

Purdue University  
Department of Botany and Plant Pathology  
Lilly Hall of Life Sciences

## Plant Disease Control



# Cherry Leaf Spot Disease

Paul C. Pecknold, Extension Plant Pathologist

While cherries are not generally considered a commercial fruit crop of Indiana, they are, nevertheless, a favorite in many Hoosier home gardens.

Like all home-grown fruit crops, cherries and cherry trees can fall victim to disease. The most common in Indiana is cherry leaf spot, sometimes called "cherry yellow leaf disease." Although primarily a leaf disease, leaf spot may also infect leaf stems, fruit stems and fruits themselves.

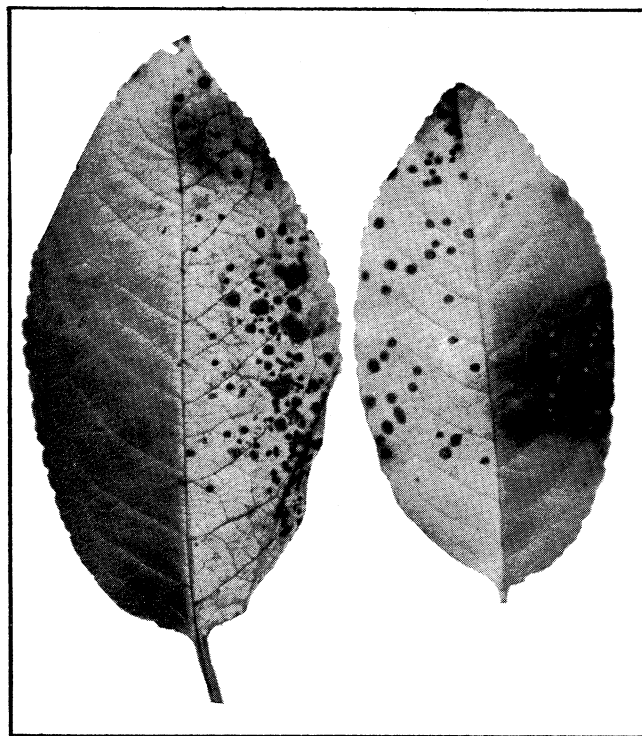
### Symptoms

The disease first shows up in late May or early June as small purple spots in the upper leaf surface. Over the next 6 to 8 weeks, these spots grow in number and size until their centers fall out, giving leaves a "shot-hole" appearance. Ultimately, infected leaves turn yellow and drop from the tree. In some years, trees may be completely defoliated by mid July.

Leaf spot disease reduces tree vigor, lowers fruit yield, and eventually kills the tree if left unchecked over the years. In addition, trees defoliated by leaf spot are more subject to serious winter injury.

### Cause

Cherry leaf spot is caused by the fungus, *Coccomyces hiemalis*, which lives over winter in dead leaves on the ground. In mid spring, the fungus produces spores, which are carried to the



young green leaves by air currents. From this early infection, as described above, new summer spores are produced to infect later-developing leaves.

Serious outbreaks of leaf spot can be expected if frequent rains and 60 to 70° temperatures occur in May and early June.

#### Control

A fungicide spray program, especially early in the season, is extremely important. To be effective, fungicides must be applied before the disease ap-

pears - not after. Spraying should begin when 75% of petals have fallen or when first leaves unfold. Continue sprays on a 10 to 14-day interval as directed on container label. Captan 50% WP (also sold as Orthocide); dodine 65% WP (sold as Cyprex); and benomyl 50% WP (sold as Benlate) are suggested fungicides for control of cherry leaf spot. Be sure to follow ALL label instructions when using pesticides.

Note: Benlate and captan will also control brown rot (See BP-3-5) if used during bloom and before harvest; see label instructions.

Historic Document