

## Anticipate Unsightly Leaf Diseases This Spring

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We expect many plants to be looking poorly this spring because of foliage problems. The cool wet weather is favorable for development of fungus diseases that will damage or even kill the leaves. While nearly all plants are susceptible to an assortment of leaf spot diseases most of these fungi seldom do much damage and are usually ignored.

However, there are three diseases which can be expected to be widespread again this year doing serious damage to trees. These are apple scab, cedar apple rust, and sycamore anthracnose.

**APPLE SCAB** is a fungus disease infecting leaves as they open. It develops as olive colored spots which turn black as the leaf drops. You may recall that many crabapples had no leaves most of last spring and again last fall when the weather was cold and wet. Fruits are also affected making them unsightly. Once infected, a leaf cannot be cured, so prevention is important. One of the better spray materials for scab is benomyl. It should be applied to all the new leaves every seven to ten days as long as wet weather continues.

Closely related fungi cause pear sooty blotch and several other leaf spots.

**CEDAR APPLE RUST** is a very interesting disease. At this time of the year it appears as bright orange or yellow jelly-like masses on junipers. Many times people think their juniper is

in bloom. These masses are in reality one stage of a fungus disease that alternately affects junipers and either apple, crab-apple or hawthorns. Hawthorns have been severely affected by this disease in the last few years.

The gelatinous masses on the juniper dry up and the spores they contain are blown to developing leaves on the alternate host, i.e. the apples, hawthorns, etc. In mid-summer, spores are produced by the alternate host, and will reinfect junipers at that time.

Rust can be controlled by eliminating one of the alternate hosts.

Where this is not feasible, spraying with a fungicide will reduce the severity of the problem. This spring, while spores are being produced on junipers, spray the apples and hawthorns with zineb, maneb or Polyram. Repeat three or four times at ten day intervals.

In summer when apples and hawthorns are making spores, spray the juniper.

Picking the walnut-like galls from the juniper as they develop in fall will eliminate spores in spring.

Also whenever possible, avoid planting susceptible juniper species. There are many resistant varieties.

**SYCAMORE ANTHRACNOSE** affects twigs, buds, new leaves, and fully developed leaves of sycamore and London Plane trees. Severe infections occur during cool wet springs. The fungus is affected by temperatures and is most active when temperatures are between 50 and 60 degrees F. as leaves emerge. During warm springs or during summer weather of 80 degrees or better no anthracnose will occur. Last year anthracnose was severe on white and bur oak, and on maple. If

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weather continues cool and wet the same problem will show up this year, too.

The disease appears as drying up of the new leaves and shoots as they appear in spring. The affected leaves do not develop and eventually drop off. Later in the spring new leaves develop but are marked by irregular brown areas within the leaves. At this time the injury usually does not cause leaf drop.

Trees affected year after year are seriously weakened and should be fertilized to maintain vigorous growth. Spraying the tree with benomyl, captafol, or Bordeaux mixture before the buds break in spring will retard the development of the disease. If cool weather persists, the treatment should be repeated in two weeks.

Spray materials may be used safely if they are used correctly. Always read and follow the directions explicitly.

### **“A Springtime Show”**

April, the first Lady of Spring,

Aids Mother Nature with Her showery fling.

Spurred on with Her awakening might,

Nature blooms forth with unharnessed delight.

All of the beauty buried with snow,

Bursts out with vigor, “A Springtime Show”.

While April performs Her Seasonal Duty,

We hungrily await the rest of Spring’s Beauty.

**Kenneth R. Zanzig**

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### **“THAT’S NOT MY JOB”**

This is a about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.



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