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Currant, Gooseberry: Anthracnose (Leaf spot)

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Anthracnose is a fungal disease affecting the leaves of currants and gooseberries. Leaves show small, round or irregularly-shaped spots on the upper or lower surfaces. The spots are usually dark brown in color and may develop tiny, gray fungal structures in the centers. Severely affected leaves may turn yellow and drop prematurely. The leaf loss can weaken plants and reduce yields. Currant fruit may also show spotting. On fruit, the spots are tiny and resemble flyspecks. Severely infected berries crack open and drop. The fungus is spread from infected to healthy leaves by splashing water and overwinters in fallen leaves. Disease development is favored by wet spring weather.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Avoid overhead watering.
- ~ Space plantings and prune to provide good air circulation and reduce humidity.
- ~ Rake fallen leaves from beneath plants. Destroy or discard (do not compost) diseased plant materials. Cultivation to bury diseased leaves may also be effective.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Begin applications when the first leaf reaches full size. Make applications until dry weather prevails in summer.

Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.

- ~ Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide Conc/Organic Gardening
 - active ingredient: copper octanoate
 - EPA reg no: 67702-2-4
- ~ Spectracide IMMUNOX Multi-Purpose Fungicide Spray Conc
 - active ingredient: myclobutanil
 - EPA reg no: 9688-123-8845
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

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Images



~ Caption: Anthracnose on currant
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther