

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

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Cooperative Extension
Nassau County



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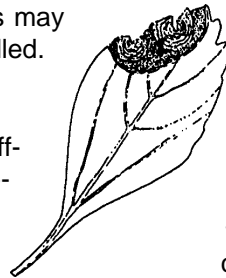
Pachysandra Leaf Blight

Leaf Spots May Have Concentric Ring Patterns

Leaf blight can be a destructive disease on pachysandra. The fungus *Volutella pachysandricola* invades leaves and stems, causing brown blotches on leaves and brown shriveled stems. Lesions may continue to expand until the entire plant is killed.

Symptoms and Disease Cycle

During wet weather in summer and fall, buff-to-orange-colored masses of spores are apparent on the undersides of leaf lesions and along stem lesions. These may also be observed by placing infected material in a plastic bag with a moist paper towel for several days. These spores are the means of spread for the fungus. They are carried by splashing or running water throughout the planting. Damage may be very severe when plants have been stressed by excessive sunlight, winter injury, drought or insect attack. Spread of the fungus is more rapid in dense plantings, where heavy mulches are used, or during wet weather.



should also be discarded. It should be buried or thrown out with the garbage. General thinning of the planting to promote good air circulation helps reduce spread by allowing plants to dry out more quickly after rain. Between each cut, disinfect pruning tools by swabbing the cutting blades with a solution of 7 parts rubbing alcohol and 3 parts water. Once plants have filled in and are established, refrain from adding mulches that promote high moisture around them. Remove tree leaves that cover the ground cover area in the fall. After the above cultural practices are completed, fungicide sprays may be useful to prevent further disease spread. Apply according to label directions. Usually 2-3 applications every 10 days suffice, beginning when new growth appears in spring.

Since insect infestation can weaken plants and cause more severe leaf blight, management of insect pests is advised. The insect that most commonly causes this sort of problem is euonymus scale. If scale infestations are small, prune out affected plant parts. (See fact sheet E-1-8 Euonymus Scale.)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls. As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

* A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g. **insecticide**, **fungicide**, **herbicide**, etc.

Management

Always work in **dry** plantings to reduce disease spread. Remove all severely infected plants, including roots. Surrounding soil and soil that clings to the "roots"



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