

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Black Blotches on Maples

This spring's cool, damp weather is the primary culprit behind an outbreak of black blotches and curling on maple tree leaves in our region.

The UW-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic has identified it as a fungal leaf disease known as Venturia leaf spot. Venturia, like many other spring leaf spots, is primarily a cosmetic disorder on the leaves and is not typically deadly to the tree.

The bottom line is not to panic. Leaf diseases on maples tend to only affect the aesthetics of the tree and good fall clean-up of fallen leaves can go a long way to help reduce the severity of these sorts of diseases. As the weather warms and new leaves grow on the tree, the problem will disappear. Fungicide treatments are NOT recommended.

Mike Maddox is the Director of Education at Rotary Botanical Gardens' and Horticulture Educator with Rock County UW-Extension. Contact the Horticulture Help-line with your garden related questions by calling (608) 757-5696.