

ANTHRACNOSE – ONE OF THE ENEMIES

"Anthracnose" is the common name of a plant disease of frequent occurrence throughout the northwest last summer. The term "anthracnose" is applied when the disease is caused by a fungus that produces spores in a structure called an "acervulus". When the environmental factors (temperature, moisture, light) are favorable for fungal growth and a susceptible host is present, we experience an epidemic as noted on the "Big Leaf Maple" this past summer.

The fungal agent, *Gloeosporium nervisequum*, that causes this disease was present in high enough concentration last summer, along with the other factors, to cause an epidemic. This is a rather cosmopolitan fungus and can be found on many different hosts causing leaf spots, leaf blights, leaf scorch, and cankers and/or witches' broom on the woody parts. The disease was present last summer in western Oregon on ash, sycamore, maple (Vine and Big Leaf), native oak, and dogwood.

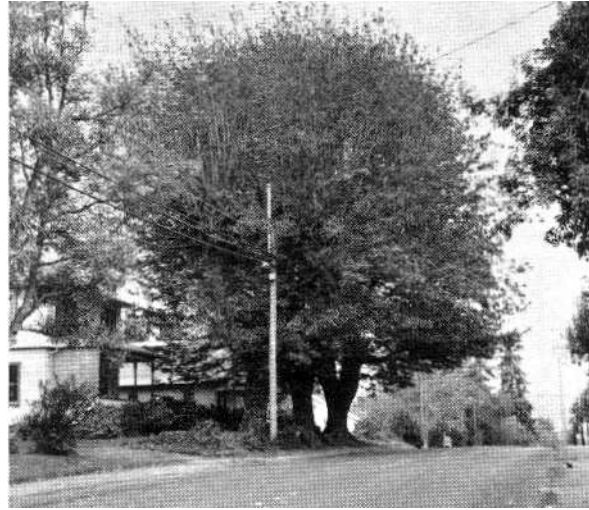
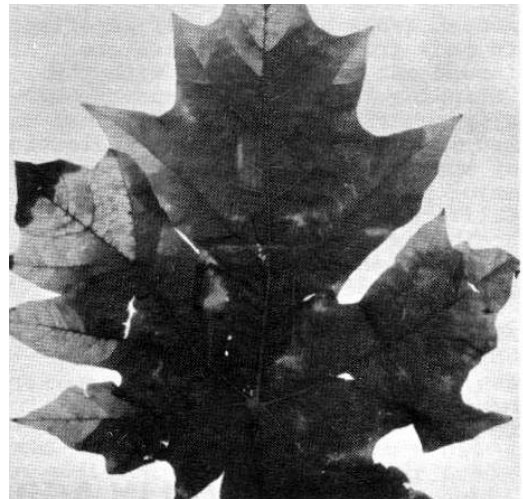


Figure 1. Anthracnose on Big Leaf Maple: premature leaf drop has left the tree partially defoliated.

Figure 2. Anthracnose on Big Leaf Maple: one of the most common symptoms is the large, brown, irregularly-shaped blotches on the leaves; the diseased area will often be located at the tip of the leaf and roughly centered on the midvein giving a wedge-shaped appearance to the diseased area.



The following is a partial list of hosts for this disease:

<i>Gloeosporium apocryptum</i>	- Maple
" <i>minutum</i>	- Anthurium
" <i>berberidis</i>	- Barberry
" <i>betularum</i>	- Birch
" <i>carthami</i>	- Safflower
" <i>coryli</i>	- Filbert
" <i>crateagi</i>	- Hawthorne
" <i>robergei</i>	- Hornbean
" <i>aridum</i>	- Ash
" <i>frigidum</i>	- Euonymus
" <i>aquifolii</i>	- Holly
" <i>liriodendri</i>	- Tulip Tree
" <i>musarum</i>	- Banana
" <i>cactorum</i>	- Prickly-Pear
" <i>rhododendri</i>	- Rhododendron
" <i>fructigenum</i>	- Sassafras
" <i>revolutum</i>	- Black Locust
" <i>syringae</i>	- Lilac
" <i>thumenii</i>	- Tulip
" <i>callae</i>	- Calla-Lily
" <i>minus</i>	- Blueberry
" <i>inconspicuum</i>	- Elm
" <i>nervisequum</i>	- Oak
" <i>nervisequum</i>	- Sycamore
" <i>corni</i>	- Dogwood
" <i>tiliae</i>	- Linden

People are concerned about the long-term effect of this disease on hosts such as the “Big Leaf Maple”. The Article, “Insects Have Defoliated My Tree – Now What’s going to Happen?” by Phillip M. Wargo (onn030213) will shed some light on this question.

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