

Problem: Pseudocercospora Leaf Spot on Lilac



Host Plant: Lilac

Description: Leaf spot on lilac normally only shows up during wet, humid growing seasons. Individual spots may coalesce and lead to the death of large areas of the leaf. Severe cases may cause the plant to defoliate.

Though the shrubs look bad, loss of leaves late in the season will not harm otherwise healthy plants. Therefore, there is no need to apply a fungicide. Also, an application after the leaf spots appear will not help anyway.

Recommendations: This disease is weather-dependent and requires wet, humid weather when new leaves are developing to flourish. Symptoms usually present late enough in the season that damage to the plant is negligible. Therefore, we usually do not recommend a fungicide application as the overall health of an otherwise healthy lilac is rarely impacted. Also, fungicides have not been tested on this disease on lilac. On other labeled ornamental plants, fungicide applications for *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot diseases are made when leaves emerge and every 14 days if rainy weather persists. To reduce the severity of the disease, we recommend raking up and composting or discarding diseased leaves in the fall to reduce disease inoculum the following year.

References:

[Lilac Pseudocercospora Leaf Spot](#), Iowa State University, Extension and Outreach, Horticulture and Pest News

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