

CERCOSPORA LEAFSPOTS OF LIGUSTRUM  
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There are three *Cercosporae* associated with leaves of *Ligustrum* spp. grown in Florida: *Cercospora adusta* Heald & Wolf, *Cercospora ligustri* Roum., and an undescribed *Cercospora* sp. Symptoms are quite distinctive, yet easily confused because leaves on the same plant may be infected by more than one of these organisms.

**SYMPTOMATOLOGY.** Lesions caused by *C. adusta* measure 10-20 mm diam, are circular, centers brown with wide pale brown margins, and are usually found at the leaf tip or along the margins. This fungus is not found as frequently as the other species. It is reported on leaves of *L. ovalifolium* Hassk. and on *L. lucidum* Ait. in Florida.

*Cercospora ligustri* lesions are circular, with reddish-purple to black margins, centers tan with occasional brown flecks, faintly zonate, 5-15 mm diam, and frequently coalescing to form extensive necrotic areas (Fig. 1-A,B). *L. japonicum* L., *L. lodense* Glogau, *L. lucidum* and *L. vulgare* L. are hosts of this fungus.

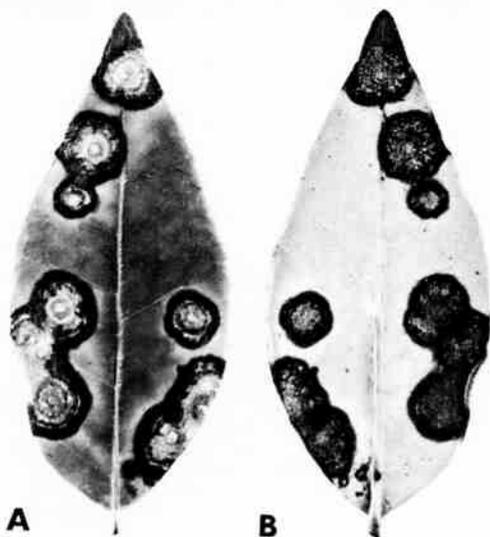


Fig. 1. Natural infection of *Ligustrum lucidum* leaves by *Cercospora ligustri*: A) Upper leaf surface; B) lower leaf surface.

The last of the three diseases is probably the most common and widespread in Florida. Although not yet proved, observations suggest that the incidence of this disease is proportionate to the amount of insect activity on the leaves.

Young lesions are irregular to circular, purple to almost black in color, and measure 1-5 mm. At maturity, lesions are mostly irregular, with reddish-brown to purple margins of varying width, tan to dark brown centers, and measure 5-30 mm (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Leaves of two varieties of *Ligustrum lucidum* infected by a *Cercospora* sp.

CONTROL. Destroy diseased leaves and spray with basic copper sulfate or Benlate.