

APR 20 1979

## PLANT DISEASE CONTROL NOTES

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

EXTENSION DIVISION • VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

## ORNAMENTAL AND FLOWER DISEASES

Revised  
January 1979

DOGWOOD SPOT ANTHRACNOSE

Control Series 109

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The fungus *Elsinoe corni* causes the disease, spot anthracnose. White varieties of dogwood are most seriously affected, but pink varieties may be attacked also. Damage from the disease appears as malformed blooms, ragged leaves, and scabby young shoots and berries. If the disease is not controlled, it may become so severe that flower buds never open. Leaves and twigs may be so heavily diseased that the tree is weakened so that flower and foliage production is poor.

**SYMPTOMS:** Spots appear on infected flowers, leaves, stems and fruit. The spots on bracts are reddish-purple and may be as large as 1/10" in diameter. They are circular to elongate in shape. The center of the spot becomes a dusty yellow while the margin remains dark in color. The spots on the leaves are usually circular, although they may be somewhat angular to elongated. They are dark purple, but the centers may turn pale yellowish-gray and drop out, leaving holes in the leaves. Heavily infected leaves are reduced in size and often are killed outright. Infected young shoots develop elongated scabby lesions which have a purplish margin. Infected berries also have scabby spots with purple margins. Severely infected berries may be badly deformed.

**DISEASE CYCLE:** The fungus overwinters on infected berries, buds, shoots, and leaves. Spores produced in the infected plant parts are blown to healthy buds causing new infections.

**CONTROL:** No fungicides are approved for use against this disease.



Fig. 1. Spots on leaves are circular.

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#### KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.
2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and away from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.
3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.