

PLANT DISEASE CONTROL NOTES

EXTENSION DIVISION • VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

ORNAMENTAL AND FLOWER DISEASES

CHRYSANTHEMUM SEPTORIA LEAF SPOT

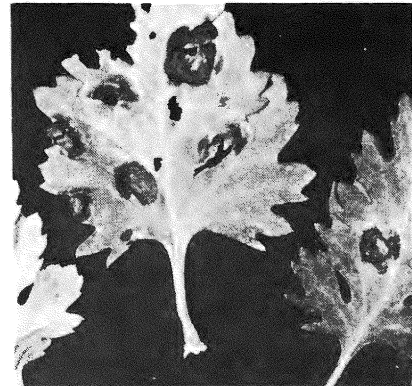
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Septoria leaf spot disease of chrysanthemums, caused by the fungi Septoria chrysanthemi and S. leucanthemi, can be a problem in some home plantings. In commercial plantings, the disease may cause considerable defoliation if control measures are not carried out.

SYMPTOMS: Usually the lower leaves are the first to be attacked. The first symptoms are small, dark-brown spots that gradually increase in size. Several spots may grow together to involve rather large irregular areas. The disease gradually works up the plant and may destroy from one-half to three-quarters of the leaves by late summer. Infected leaves dry out, turn brown, and usually remain hanging from the stem for long periods of time.



Leaf spots are irregular and centers fall out.

DISEASE CYCLE: Numerous tiny, black fruiting bodies of the fungi are usually visible in the infected plant parts. The spores, or the seeds of the fungi are produced in the fruiting bodies. Infection occurs through the lower leaf surfaces only. The spores are spread to healthy leaves by splashing water, or by mechanical contact with clothing, tools, or hands. The fungi may be carried to new locations on plant divisions, or on cuttings. The causal fungi overwinter on infected foliage and other plant debris left on the ground.

CONTROL: Sanitation will prevent new infections. All spotted leaves should be removed from the planting and burned as soon as possible. No plant refuse should be allowed to remain in the flower bed. Do not use them for compost. Avoid overhead watering and in greenhouses keep the humidity as low as possible by having good ventilation.

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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.