PLANT DISEASE CONTROL NOTES
EXTENSION DIVISION ● VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

ORNAMENTAL AND FLOWER DISEASES

SEPTORIA LEAF SPOT OF DOGWOOD

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Control Series 107

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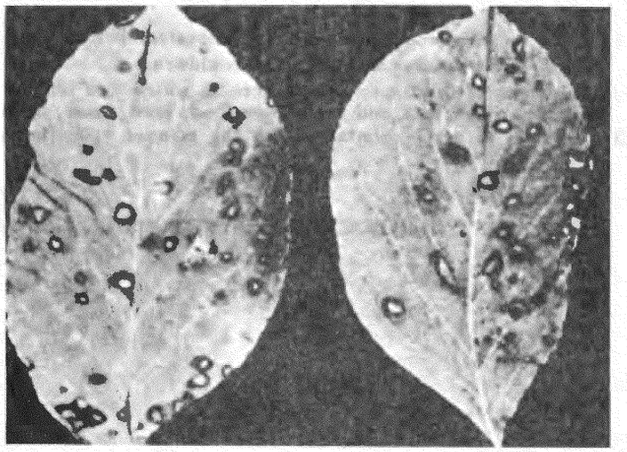
Septoria leaf spot, caused by the fungus Septoria cornicola, usually appears in Virginia around the middle of June. The time may vary somewhat depending upon spring weather conditions. If weather conditions are favorable for the disease, extensive defoliation can occur resulting in the death of some of the small twigs. This may result in reduced flowering the following year.

SYMPTOMS: The spots on the leaves at first are purple in color. They gradually enlarge, becoming 1/10" to 1/4" in diameter. The spots are bounded by veins in the leaf so that they may eventually take on an angular shape. Later in the season, they become greyish in the center but retain the dark purple border.

DISEASE CYCLE: The fungus overwinters in leaves which remain attached to the tree, or on leaves which have fallen to the ground. Fungus fruiting bodies develop in the spots on the leaves and spores produced in these structures are blown to young buds in the spring causing infections.

CONTROL: Rake up diseased leaves.



Septoria leaf spot

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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.