

Oak Leaf Blister

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FIG. 1

Other Common Names: Oak leaf curl

Disease Pathogen Name: *Taphrina caerulescens*

Pathogen Type: Fungus

Period of Primary Occurrence: late spring into late summer

- Infection only takes place during spring on young/emerging leaves

Description / Symptoms

- Symptoms may be visible from late spring into late summer
- Oak leaf blister is a fungus disease which attacks the leaves of oak trees
- All oaks are susceptible
- Red, black, scarlet, and live oak varieties are especially susceptible, but the disease is fatal to none
- Some premature defoliation can result
- New leaves become spotted with yellowish blisters on top and grey-to-brown lesions on the underside of the leaf (Fig. 3 & 4)
- Boils grow, turn reddish brown after spores grow; infected tissue dies
- Boils can coalesce and turn dull brown (Fig. 1 & 2)



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

Conditions Favoring Disease Development

- Cool, wet weather during early leaf growth

Best Management Practices (BMP)

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- No control is required unless symptoms are repeated from a previous year
- Remove and destroy infected leaves as soon as they fall to minimize chances of repeat infections
- Maintain good regimen of watering and fertilizing to enhance overall plant vigor



FIG. 4

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- If disease has repeated from a previous year, use a dormant fungicide spray before the tree buds begin to open, such as:
 - Ortho Volck Oil Spray
 - Ferti-lome Dormant and Summer Oil Spray
- Applying fungicide after buds begin to open is useless

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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label:
“KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN”

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