

Leaf Spot



Leaf Spot is caused by a fungus and is a disease that infects blackcurrants, gooseberries and redcurrants and can cause premature defoliation of the bushes, thereby reducing yields of fruit the following year. It is worse in wet summers.

DAMAGE:

Infection commences in late April on leaves at the bases of the bushes. The first signs of the disease are small angular brown spots accompanied by a yellowing of the surrounding leaf areas. Under favourable conditions the number of spots increase rapidly and merge until the whole leaf has turned brown and died. Fruit can sometimes shrivel before ripening.

CONTROL

Non Chemical

Collect and burn all diseased leaves in order to prevent infection the following spring. Feed the bushes well with a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore, especially where severe defoliation has occurred, to encourage new growth.

The following spring apply a foliar feed such as Maxicrop or **SB Plant Invigorator** as the new leaves develop.

Leaf Spot is often troublesome on bushes growing on light soils. It is therefore advisable to mulch such bushes with compost or leaf mould to conserve moisture and to water in dry periods before the soil dries out completely.

Chemical

There are no chemical controls currently labeled for use by gardeners to control this disease.

The following cultivars show some resistance to Leaf Spot:

Blackcurrant 'Ben Connan'

Blackcurrant 'Big Ben'

Blackcurrant 'Ben Gairn'

Blackcurrant 'Ben Hope'