

ALGAL LEAF SPOT

(See images on second page)

Causal Agent: *Cephaleuros virescens*

Common Hosts: Magnolia & Camellia

(Other hosts: Azalea, Holly, Honeysuckle, Live Oak, Mahonia, Maple, Privet, Sumac, Sweet gum, and Wax myrtle)

Symptoms of this pathogen include: pale green or pale red superficial colonies that have a netlike pattern on leaf surfaces. The colonies are usually circular and appear as rough and/or raised spots on host leaves. The margins of the colonies are often times wavy or feathered.

Twigs and branches are also sites of infection and symptoms include cracking, formation of a shallow canker, and subsequent girdling and death of the limb/twig. The pathogen remains conspicuous until symptoms occur which usually follows rainy, wet weather in the fall and spring. The pathogen *C. virescens* is most damaging to weakened, stressed plants growing in direct sunlight after abundant rainfall.

Management of algal leaf spot can be achieved primarily by sanitation. If the infection is superficial (on leaf surfaces), remove infected attached and fallen leaves and destroy and/or eliminate them from the planting site.

If the infection is occurring on woody tissue such as limbs or branches, prune the affected areas and discard them properly. Also, increasing air circulation around the plants and improving soil drainage will help prevent future infections.

Copper sprays, such as Bordeaux's mixture (8 tbsp. /gal.) or Kocide 101, can be used preventively but are usually unnecessary.

Remember when applying fungicides to ALWAYS read and follow label directions carefully.

Algal leaf spot on **CAMELLIA**:



Magnified algal leaf spot colony



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