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Sycamore Anthracnose

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Sycamore anthracnose, often called sycamore blight, is a common disease of the Western Sycamore, *Platanus racemosa*; the American Plane Tree, *P. occidentalis*; the London Plane Tree, *P. acerifolia*; and the white oak *Quercus garryana*. On sycamores the disease is most severe in spring seasons when the average mean daily temperature at time of leafing-out and for the following two weeks is below 55° F.

Symptoms

The most conspicuous symptoms of the disease are the red-brown blotches along the midrib and veins of the older leaves, followed by leaf-drop. Severely affected trees may drop almost all of their leaves during early summer, and the value of the trees for landscaping is lost. Defoliated trees will leaf-out again during the summer, but the defoliation of the trees may produce loss of growth and vigor and susceptibility to drought and winter injury.

A shoot blight may occur and cause sudden death of expanding shoots and young leaves. These symptoms may be confused with frost injury. The anthracnose

fungus also attacks twigs and small branches, causing cankers and death of the affected part.

Overwintering fungus

The fungus, *Gnomonia veneta*, overwinters in the affected buds, twigs, and branches. In the spring the fungus in the diseased tissue produces spores which are spread by rain or wind to cause new infections.

Control

Prune out and destroy infected twigs and branches. This may be difficult as affected twigs and branches may be small and numerous and the trees may be too large for detailed pruning.

Spray with a fungicide when the buds are swelling and the bud caps begin to break. Apply a second spray 10 days later. Several fungicides are effective:

Puritized Agricultural Spray (PAS): 1 pint per 100 gallons of water. PAS may cause injury to other ornamental plants. Rinsing the plants with water previous to spraying will reduce or eliminate injury.

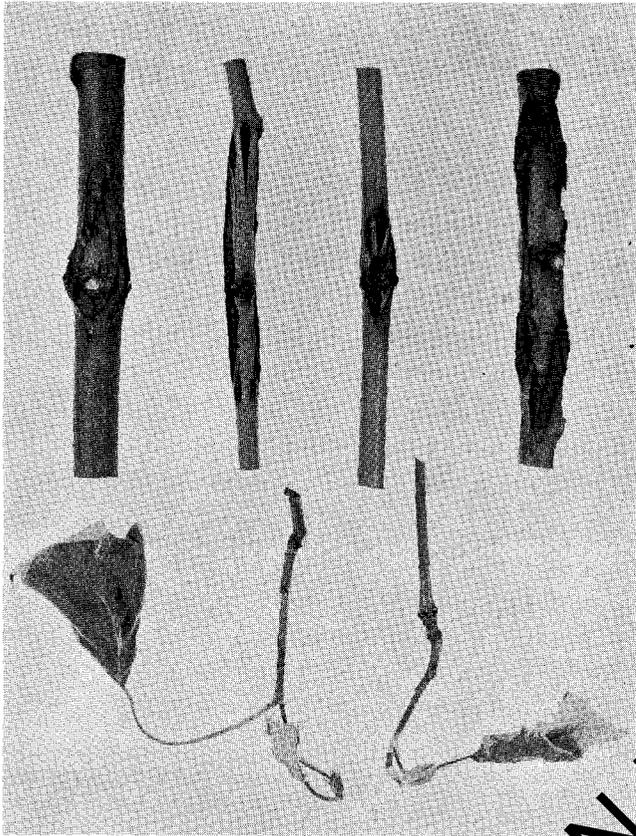


Leaf blight showing typical brown-red regions along the veins and midribs.

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Sycamore anthracnose cankers on branches at the bases of twigs.

TAG: $\frac{1}{2}$ pint per 100 gallons of water. See above cautions under PAS for possible injury to ornamental plants.

Other organic mercury fungicides as yet untested may be as effective as PAS and TAG.

PAS and TAG are organic mercury compounds and care should be used when handling them. Do not breathe spray or get it in the eyes or on skin or clothing. Avoid unnecessary or prolonged contact and wash thoroughly with soap and water.

Cyprex (dodine): 1 pound per 100 gallons of water

Fixed coppers: 4 pounds per 100 gallons of water

Bordeaux mixture: 8-8-100

Recent tests indicate that PAS, TAG, or Cyprex may be more effective than fixed coppers or Bordeaux mixture.

Cyprex, fixed coppers, and Bordeaux mixture are considered safe for use on many ornamental plants.

USE PESTICIDES SAFELY

Read the label on each pesticide container before each use.

Store pesticides in their original labeled containers. Keep them out of reach of children and irresponsible people.

Apply pesticides only as directed on the label.

Dispose of empty containers safely. It is almost impossible to remove all material from a container. "Empty" containers contain small amounts of pesticide which could harm animals or children who might get into them.

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