

ANTHRACNOSE



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

Anthracnose is a fungus that winters on twig tissue and causes leaf spots. The most common species of anthracnose are the *Apiognomonia* and *Discula*: two destructive fungi which cause additional twig and limb dieback. They both survive on dead twigs and buds, infecting newly emerged leaves in cool wet spring conditions. The fungi kill the leaf and grow down through the petiole to attack the twigs. Severe infections lead to twig and branch dieback.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

Sycamores are most susceptible to *Apiognomonia* while dogwoods are more susceptible to *Discula*. Infection of Pacific dogwood has been reported in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia, while flowering dogwoods in the east are susceptible from Massachusetts to Georgia. American and California sycamores are frequently infected while improved cultivars, such as the London Plane, are somewhat resistant.



Sycamore tree infected with anthracnose

SYMPTOMS:

Sycamore anthracnose symptoms include blotchy, irregular lesions that lead to shoot dieback and blighted areas. Dogwood anthracnose symptoms include tan spots with red edges that often join together. Pacific dogwoods frequently experience spring leaf drop while both species of dogwood will retain infected leaves in the fall. Repeated infection of flowering dogwood increases epicormic sprouting along the trunk.

Annual infection of either fungus can lead to major limb loss and dieback and increase susceptibility to additional pests. Severity of the anthracnose infection is influenced by both the amount of rainfall and the spring temperatures during bud break and leaf emergence. Temperatures below 55°F increase severity.



Sycamore leaf infected with anthracnose



Anthracnose symptoms on Sycamore tree trunk

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Treatment in the late summer or fall prior to the infection period provides the greatest disease suppression. Fall injection of either PHOSPHO-jet™ or Propizol® is recommended. PHOSPHO-jet increases the tree's natural defense system. Propizol is best suited for areas with high spring moisture conditions. A combination of PHOSPHO-jet as a bark spray and a trunk injection of Propizol provides the best suppression of either of these two destructive diseases.

Header Image and Infected Sycamore Leaf Image taken by: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org, Infected Sycamore Tree Image taken by: Theodor D. Leininger, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org, Tree Trunk Image taken by: William Jacobi, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.