



Dogwood Diseases

Informational table showing disease name, symptoms, pathogen/cause, and management of Dogwood diseases.

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Disease	Symptoms	Pathogen/Cause	Management
Anthracnose and Decline	<p>Brown spots up to 1/4-inch in diameter go entirely through the leaf and have reddish-brown halos. Tiny, dark-brown fungal fruiting structures dot the brown areas. Small, reddish-brown spots without brown centers may pepper portions of the leaf or extend along veins. Also, large, brown blotches of dead tissue may occur on leaf tips, along</p>	<p><i>Discula destructiva</i></p>	<p>Prune and destroy dead twigs and branches during dormancy and when observed during the</p>

the margin of leaves, or between the veins. Leaves on branch tips may be completely blighted and remain attached over the winter. Reddish-brown dead spots occur on the flower bracts. Lower twigs and branches die. Small, raised, pimple-like fruiting structures form on the dead twigs. Water sprouts form along the trunk of severely affected trees. The entire tree may be killed over a period of years.

growing season. Protect trees from drought stress, winter injury, and dogwood borer attack. Rake and destroy fallen leaves. Apply a fungicide during bud break to protect new flowers, twigs, and foliage. Kousa dogwood (*C. kousa*) and hybrids of kousa and native dogwood (*C. florida*) are resistant to anthracnose and decline and should be used to replace dying trees.

<p>Leaf and flower blight</p>	<p>Irregular, brown, wrinkled patches form on flower bracts and leaves in the spring. Patches of gray mold grow on the patches if the weather remains very humid.</p>	<p><i>Botrytis cinerea</i></p>	<p>This disease occurs only if weather conditions are very wet and humid in the spring. Warm, dry weather will curtail the disease.</p>
<p>Crown canker</p>	<p>Leaves are smaller than normal, light green, and exhibit premature fall leaf coloration. Twigs and large branches die as a canker forms at the base of the tree. The canker slowly girdles the tree. During this time, the tree flowers and fruits profusely but eventually dies.</p>	<p><i>Phytophthora cactorum</i></p>	<p>Remove the infected tree and do not replace it with another woody ornamental until the soil has been fumigated and aerated. Apply a fungicide to protect plants.</p>
<p>Powdery mildew</p>	<p>White fungal growth develops on the surface of leaves late in the summer and during the autumn.</p>	<p><i>Erysiphe pulchra</i> and <i>Phyllactinia guttata</i></p>	<p>Apply a fungicide as soon as symptoms are seen. <i>Cornus kousa</i>, <i>C. sericea</i>, <i>C. mas</i>, <i>C.</i></p>

			<p><i>alternifolia</i>, <i>C. alba</i>, and <i>C. controversa</i> are much more resistant than most varieties of <i>Cornus florida</i>. The following <i>C. florida</i> cultivars are resistant: Jean's Appalachian Snow, Kay's Appalachian Mist, Karen's Appalachian Blush, and Appalachian Joy.</p>
<p>Septoria leaf spot</p>	<p>Angular gray to brown spots with yellow or dark purple halos form on leaves. Spots can be up to 1/4 inch in diameter. Small dark brown fruiting structures of the fungus are visible within the brown spots.</p>	<p><i>Septoria cornicola</i></p>	<p>Apply a fungicide to protect new leaves during bud break.</p>
<p>Spot anthracnose</p>	<p>Reddish-purple spots on flower bracts are up to 1/10 inch in diameter. Leaf spots are circular to angular, dark-purple areas less than 1/32 inch in diameter and often drop</p>	<p><i>Elsinöe corni</i></p>	<p>See anthracnose above.</p>

	out, leaving shot holes. Spotting can occur on twigs and fruit also.		
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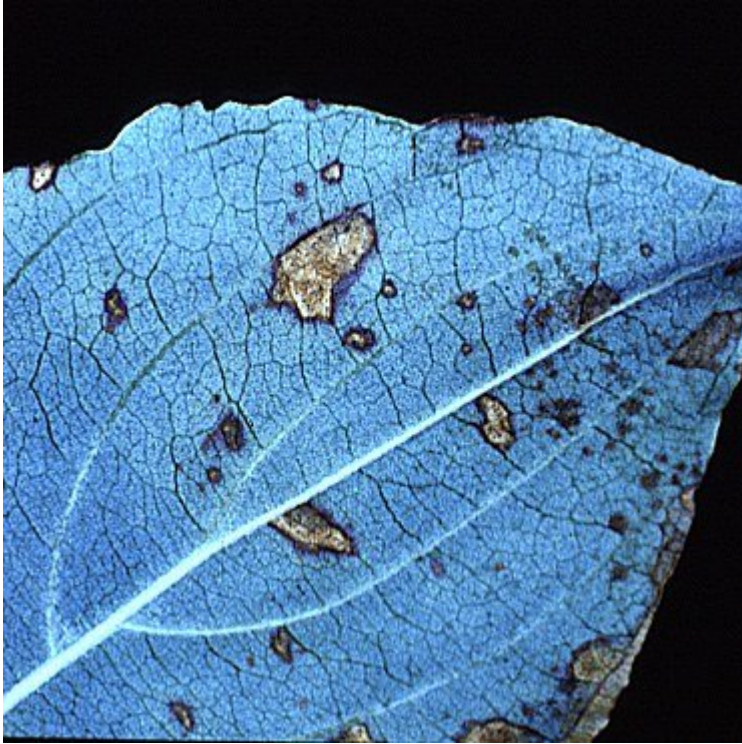
Anthracnose



Anthracnose



Anthracnose on bracts



Anthracnose on underside of leaf.



Anthracnose on twig



Anthrachnose twig dieback



Gray mold (*Botrytis*) on bracts



Powdery mildew

