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Ten Common Plant Diseases/Disorders You Can Diagnose by Eye

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Powdery Mildew

Hosts: Herbaceous and woody ornamentals, fruits,

vegetables, turf

Pathogens: Miscellaneous powdery mildew fungi **Signs/Symptoms:** Powdery white growth on leaves **For more information see:** UW Plant Disease Facts D0084/86/87



Tar Spot

Hosts: Maples

Pathogen: Rhytisma spp.

Signs/Symptoms: Tarry areas (either solid spots or

clusters of small spots) on leaves

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0110



Peach Leaf Curl

Hosts: Peach

Pathogen: Taphrina deformans

Signs/Symptoms: Light-green, yellow or purplish-red

puckered areas on leaves

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0076



Sooty Mold

Hosts: Any plant

Pathogen: Miscellaneous sooty mold fungi

Signs/Symptoms: Powdery black growth on leaves or

needles

For more information see: UW Bulletin A2637



Chlorosis

Hosts: Oak, red maple

Cause: Iron or manganese deficiency, often induced by

high soil pH

Signs/Symptoms: Yellow leaves with dark green veins

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0030



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Gymnosporangium Rusts

Hosts: Juniper, apple, crabapple, hawthorn, quince

Pathogen: Gymnosporangium spp.

Signs/Symptoms: Brown blobs with orange gelatinous masses (juniper); yellow/orange leaf spots (other hosts) **For more information see:** UW Plant Disease Facts D0058





Hosts: *Prunus* spp. (plum and cherry) **Pathogen:** *Apiosporina morbosa*

Signs/Symptoms: Black poop-like growths on branches

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0018

Elderberry Rust

Black Knot



Hosts: Elderberry Pathogen: *Puccinia sambuci*

Signs/Symptoms: Light yellow, powdery growths on

branches

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0049

Golden Canker



Hosts: Pagoda dogwood

Pathogen: Cryptodiaporthe corni

Signs/Symptoms: Gold-colored branches with orange

spots

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0055

Dog Vomit Slime Mold



Hosts: Any plant and on mulch

Cause: Fuligo septica

Signs/Symptoms: Scrambled egg-like masses on

mulch or at the base of plants

For more information see: UW Plant Disease Facts D0102

For more information on common plant diseases: See https://pddc.wisc.edu/ or contact the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC) at (608) 262-2863 or pddc@wisc.edu.

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A complete inventory of UW Plant Disease Facts is available at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic website: https://pddc.wisc.edu

Submit additional lawn, landscape, and gardening questions at https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question/