



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Provided to you by:

Ten Common Plant Diseases/Disorders You Can Diagnose by Eye

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UW Plant Disease Facts



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](#)



Black Knot

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

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.