

Forest Disease Management Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region



Cedar Leaf Blight

Cedar leaf blight caused by the fungus, *Didymascella (Keithia) thujina* appears sporadically in the Pacific Northwest. Damage is rarely serious in forest stands.

Hosts: Western redcedar, mainly a problem of seedlings and young saplings.

Recognition: Foliage, especially of lower branches in dense stands, takes on a scorched appearance; in the spring leaves turn reddish-brown then gray; in fall, infected leaf twigs drop, leaving the branches bare. In the spring following infection, circular to elliptical olive-brown to black fruit bodies are formed in the upper surfaces of infected leaves.

Disease Spread: Spores are discharged from June to mid-October during periods of moist weather and infect new foliage; trees in the interior of dense stands or in deep ravines where the air is stagnant and moist are most likely to be infected; seedlings covered by snow are also prone to severe infection.

Management: Several applications of fungicide throughout summer and fall will control the disease in nurseries; no control yet devised for forest stands and is rarely required.

May be Confused With: Normal fall foliage drop.

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