

Leaf spot diseases

Septoria albopunctata, *Gloeosporium minus*,
Gloeocercospora inconspicua (fungi)

Leaf spot diseases are widespread in blueberries but tend to be more prevalent in the southern United States.

Symptoms. *Septoria* and *Gloeocercospora* spot are characterized by small to medium brown leaf spots with purplish margins; *Gloeosporium* spot causes larger reddish brown, irregular lesions on leaves.



Septoria leaf spot.



Gloeosporium leaf spot.

Both *Septoria* and *Gloeosporium* also cause lesions on succulent green stems. Severe leaf spotting can result in premature defoliation of bushes.

Disease cycle. Leaf spot infections occur on immature leaves; symptoms may take a month or more to become visible. Most leaf spots begin to appear in mid- to late season and are favored by wet weather. The causal fungi all produce rain-splash-dispersed spores and overwinter in infected tissues.

Management. Plant resistant cultivars; limit overhead irrigation; reduce humidity in the canopy; apply effective fungicides before the onset of symptoms.



Left, *Gloeocercospora* leaf spot.
Right, *Septoria* stem lesions.