

Anthracnose of English Ivy

Disease Profile

Arkansas Gardener – July/August

By: Stephen Vann

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is a common evergreen groundcover and climbing vine that adapts well to hot climates. The vine transplants easily and can thrive in deep shady conditions. Anthracnose is a major fungus disease caused by *Colletotrichum trichellum* that can kill large sections of the vine during the spring and summer.

The most obvious indication of the disease is the development of brown circular to irregular leaf spots. Infections can also occur on the stems, resulting in a complete collapse of individual plants. When leaves are wet, the fungus advances rapidly, killing tissue and producing black fruiting bodies on the leaves and stems.

Sanitation is the best line of defense. All infected portions should be pruned out and removed. Minimize overhead water. After pruning, apply fungicide containing propiconazole, chlorothalonil, or azoxystrobin. Multiple applications may be required.

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