

Iris Leaf Spot

Disease Profile

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By: Stephen Vann

Iris leaf spot, sometimes referred to as eye spot, is very significant and contagious. The spot is caused by the fungus *Heterosporium iridis*. Infections are usually initiated in the spring following rainy periods. Spots may persist into the fall and cause entire leaves to become blighted. Bulbous iris tends to be more susceptible than the rhizomatous types.

The most obvious indication of iris leaf spot is the development of a small water-soaked spot that rapidly enlarges under humid conditions to develop a dark center where the fungus is reproducing. Entire leaves become blighted, giving the leaves a burned appearance that begins near the leaf tip. New infections take place following rainy periods. Spots are most conspicuous toward the end of the growing season after blooming takes place.

Since the fungus also over-winters in dead iris leaves, removing and destroying all diseased leaves in the fall will help reduce disease incidence in the spring. The fungus produces microscopic spores on the dead leaves that initiate new infections in the spring. Minimize overhead water and apply fungicide containing chlorothalonil, myclobutanil, and mancozeb. Always follow label information.

BYLINE: Stephen Vann is an associate professor and Extension urban plant pathologist with the University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Service.