

Disease: Bacterial blight

Bacterial blight, also known as blossom blight or shoot blight, is a common and often serious disease of Chinese, Japanese, Persian and common lilac, as well as walnut, apple, pear, plum and cherry. White flowering varieties of common lilac are most susceptible to the disease.



What does bacterial blight look like?

Initial symptoms of bacterial blight may include dark brown necrotic (dead) leaf spots with yellow halos. If leaf spots develop before leaves are fully expanded, leaf curling and twisting may result. More advanced symptoms include necrotic blotches starting at the leaf margins and advancing inward, as well as black streaking on twigs. In its most severe form, bacterial blight can result in the death of branch tips, leaves and blossoms.



Treatment

Pruning infected plant material is the first step in controlling the disease. Remove affected parts of the plant and toss them. Do not add them to the compost pile!

Remember to **keep tools clean** and sanitize after pruning to avoid spreading the disease to other plant life.

If the disease continues to progress after pruning, it may be time to cut your losses and **dispose** of the entire plant. Leaving it be in its condition may cause the disease to spread to other plant life in the garden.