



Peacock Spot

Olive Peacock Spot is very common and affects the leaves of olive trees around the world from the UK to Australia. It only attacks olive trees and only affects trees through the growing season. It's quite easy to 'spot' as you'll see small black spots on the top surface of the leaves. This is actually a lesion produced by the fungus. The fungus can be easily spread by the weather and by insects so is near impossible to contain.

Peacock spot can cause significant loss of Olives. Not so much a problem in the UK, but it can ruin an entire yield in Spain. However, in the worst cases, defoliation can occur which can lead to twig death. As a result, Olive Peacock spot can have server effects on an Olive Tree.

Peacock spot appears on leaves as sooty blotches that develop into black, circular spots about 0.1 to 0.5 inch (2.5–12 mm) in diameter. There may be a yellow halo around the spot. Infection occurs in the fall, with temperatures between 35oF and 80oF. The optimum temperature is 58oF to 75oF.

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the shorter the time necessary for infection to occur; it can be as little as 14 hours.

The pathogen also infects fruit and fruit stems, but lesions are observed most often on upper leaf surfaces of leaves low in the tree canopy. Leaves fall



prematurely. When significant defoliation occurs, strong bloom fails to develop and crop production is substantially reduced. Twig death may occur as a result of defoliation, and productivity is eventually further reduced.

The good news is, it is easily treatable. The best way we know of to treat Peacock spot is to spray your Olive Tree with a copper mixture or fungicide. You should do this in November and then again in February. This should be enough to ensure Peacock spot is kept at bay.



OLIVY hopes this article was helpful.
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