


OLIVE LEAF SPOT (OLS) / PEACOCK SPOT

<p>CAUSE In South Africa, Olive Leaf Spot (OLS) also known as Peacock Spot is a fungal disease caused by the organism <i>Fusicladium oleaginum</i>, formerly <i>Spilocaea oleagina</i></p> <p>DAMAGE Reduced leaf function and leaf loss results in reduced yields in current and following season.</p>	<p>SUSCEPTIBILITY Rainy or humid conditions are conducive to the spread of OLS, especially at temperatures above 20°C. Cultivars differ in their susceptibility, with Mission being highly susceptible and Maurino the least susceptible of the commercial cultivars grown in SA.</p>
<p>SYMPTOMS <u>Leaves</u> Light grey spots initially appear on upper surface of leaf and develop into black circular lesions, 3 to 10mm in diameter. The leaf area around the spot becomes chlorotic (yellow) later necrotic (brown) and the entire leaf can become yellow and fall to the ground.</p> <p><u>Shoots / Branches</u> Defoliation. Die-back of branches.</p>	
<p>PREVENTION Establish orchard in fields with low humidity and space trees to maximise aeration of canopies. Prune trees to provide adequate air circulation and exposure to sunlight. Balance plant nutrition by avoiding excess nitrogen. Spray suitable fungicides as a precautionary measure throughout growing season to protect newly formed leaves.</p>	<p>CONTROL <u>Physical controls</u> Regular pruning of dense trees and removal of old exhausted bearing branches.</p> <p><u>Chemical controls (Active Ingredients)</u> Copper hydroxide Copper oxychloride Cuprous oxide Captab Dithiocarbamate/ Mancozeb</p> <p><u>Timing of sprays</u> Post-harvest to before flowering (alternatives to copper) After fruit set to 6 weeks before harvest (copper sprays)</p>

DISCLAIMER

The information in this leaflet should be used as a guideline. SA Olive accepts no responsibility for any damages resulting from incorrect management and control of olive diseases. Contact SA Olive for information on chemicals registered for olives in South Africa.

REFERENCES

Australian Olive Association, 2022.

Costa, C., 1998. Olive Production in South Africa. ARC-Infruitec, Stellenbosch (available for purchase from the SA Olive shop).