

Fungal leaf spots

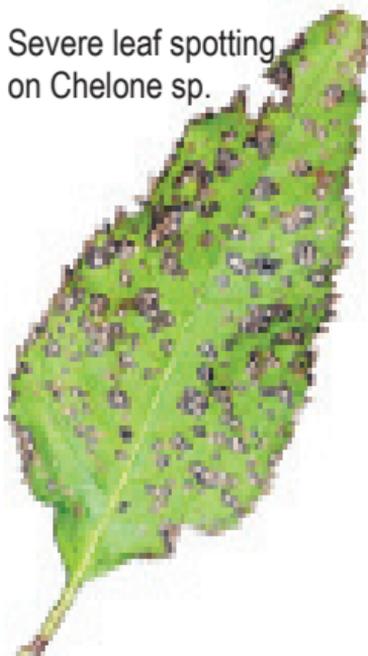
Alternaria leaf spot

Pathogen: *Alternaria* spp.

Hosts: Several species are pathogenic on perennials. Together, they have a wide host range, including *Aster*, *Calendula*, *Coreopsis*, *Dianthus*, *Gypsophila*, *Helianthus*, *Iris*, *Ligularia*, *Pelargonium*, *Platycodon*, *Shasta* and *Stokesia*.

Symptoms: Dark-colored leaf spots. Lesions may have concentric rings within them. Spots may coalesce, resulting in blighting of foliage. Petals of some plants may be infected. *Dianthus* flower buds can be rotted.

Severe leaf spotting on *Chelone* sp.



Alternaria leaf spot – continued

Spread: Spores are produced on the plant surface and are spread by splashing water or air movement or by moving infected plant material.



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Lesions on Ligularia.

Management: Maintain adequate plant spacing to allow for good aeration to reduce humidity levels around plants. *Alternaria* spp. require leaf wetness for germination and infection; reduce durations of leaf wetness with good timing of overhead irrigation. Regular fungicide applications will likely be necessary to reduce losses on especially susceptible hosts.



Dark, multicelled spores produced on the surface of infected plant material by *Alternaria* spp. Spores may be visible with a hand lens.