

Fungal leaf spots **Didymellina leaf**

Pathogen: *Didymellina poecilospora*.

Hosts: *Iris*; most severe on rhizomatous iris.

Symptoms: The first symptoms are tiny, brown spots with water-soaked borders. As disease progresses, the water-soaked areas develop into irregular spots with grayish centers and dark borders. Foliage is killed, weakening the rhizomes. Disease severity worsens after bloom.



D. Brown-Rytlewski, MSU

Severe blighting of foliage. Most infections occur on the upper portion of the foliage.



D. Brown-Rytlewski, MSU

Individual spots with grayish centers and darker borders surrounded by yellow halos.

Didymellina leaf spot – *continued*

Necrotic tissue coalesces around the leaf spots.



Spread: Rain and splashing water disseminate spores to adjacent plants. The disease can easily be introduced on infected plant material.

Management: Good sanitation is important. Leaf debris should be removed in the fall to reduce inoculum, which overwinters on the dead foliage. If infected debris is left in the area in the spring, the pathogen can sporulate and reinfect developing foliage.