

# Algal Leaf Spot of Magnolia

## TREE DOCTOR TIPS

### Algal Leaf Spot of Magnolia (*Cephaleuros virescens* & *C. parasiticus*)

#### DESCRIPTION:

Raised, wavy, cushion-like spots are symptoms of algal leaf spot, also known as green scurf. The spots are greenish, pinkish or grayish and less than 1 cm. in diameter. They may encircle a twig, creating a girdling canker.

#### HOSTS:

Plants weakened by other stress factors are the most susceptible to infection and further weakening from this disease. It affects magnolia, camellia, holly and many other plants.

#### BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Algal leaf spot is caused by the alga (plural, algae) *Cephaleuros*. Thick-leaved plants are infected in the summer, when rain spreads the pathogen. Colonies can survive on fallen leaves for a time and spread to growing leaves. After the initial infection, secondary reproduction or spread occurs over an 8- to 9-month period.

#### MANAGEMENT:

This disease primarily causes damage to the appearance of plants. Otherwise, impact is usually minimal. When new growth is expanding, make two applications of an approved algaecide, spaced 4 weeks apart. Collect and discard infected, fallen leaves to help reduce the spread of the disease. If the infestation is limited, selectively remove infected leaves from the plant.



FIGURES A & B. ALGAL LEAF SPOT OF MAGNOLIA

*The scientists at **The Davey Institute** laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult *The Davey Institute PHC Handbook*.*

