



## PACHYSANDRA LEAF BLIGHT

Leaf blight can be a very destructive disease on pachysandra. The fungus, *Volutella pachysandrae*, invades leaves and stems causing brown blotches on leaves and brown shriveled stems. Lesions may continue to expand until the entire plant is killed. Plants grown in full sun are most likely to become diseased.

**SYMPTOMS AND DISEASE CYCLE:** During wet weather in summer and fall, buff to orange colored masses of spores are apparent on the undersides of dark leaf lesions and along stem lesions. These may also be observed by placing infected material in a plastic bag with a moist paper towel for several days. These spores are the means of spread for the fungus. They are carried by splashing or running water throughout the planting. Damage may be very severe when plants have been stressed by excessive sunlight, winter injury, drought, or insect attack. Spread of the fungus is more rapid in dense plantings, where heavy mulches are used, or during wet weather.



Leaf spots

**MANAGEMENT:** Always work in plantings when they are DRY to reduce disease spread. Remove all severely infected foliage and plants. These should be buried or thrown out with the garbage. General thinning of the planting to promote good air circulation will help reduce spread by allowing plants to dry out more quickly after rain.

Avoid the use of mulches that promote high moisture around the plants and remove tree leaves that cover the planting in the fall. After the above cultural practices are completed, fungicide sprays may be useful to prevent further disease spread. Apply chlorothalonil or elemental copper according to label directions when new growth begins in the spring.

Since insect infestation can weaken plants and thus cause more severe leaf blight, management of insect pests is advised. The insect that most commonly causes this sort of problem is euonymus scale. If scale infestations are small, prune out affected plant parts.

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