Identify leaf diseases: Recognise symptoms on infected leaves



During the regular inspection tour of your garden, you discover that some plants are diseased. There are changes on the leaves that indicate a plant disease. But which leaf disease could it be? Here is an overview of the most common leaf diseases and their symptoms.

Name	Symptoms	Susceptible plants
Mosaic virus	mosaic-like, yellow-light green pattern on the leaves; wilting; leaves curl, turn yellow and die; later also deformation of fruits and shoots; often transmitted by pests such as aphids, whiteflies and thrips (like most viral diseases)	especially nightshade plants such as tomatoes and potatoes; cucurbits such as cucumbers, melons and zucchinis; fruit trees and vines
Botrytis bunch rot Botrytis cinerea	grayish-white fungal coating on the leaves and later also on other parts of the plant; later, infected parts begin to rot and die off, infestation with gray mold (Botrytis cinerea) is particularly relevant for the hobby garden because gray mold can infest over 200 host plants!	Viticulture (noble rot!); lettuce, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, onions, roses, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries
Leaf curl Taphrina deformans	young leaves curl and become lighter in color; light green or red blisters on the upper side of the leaves; early leaf fall	mainly fruit trees such as peaches, nectarines and almonds
Late blight Phytophthora infestans	olive-brown spots on the upper leaf surface; white fungal turf on the lower leaf surface; leaves curl up; later browning of the stems and fruits; over time, leaves turn black and wilt; plant reacts with early leaf fall	mainly nightshade plants, such as tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants and peppers

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Powdery mildew Erysiphaceae	infects the upper side of leaves with a whitish, floury coating that can be wiped off (fair-weather fungus)	Woody plants such as apples, grapevines, gooseberries, roses; vegetables such as zucchinis, cucumbers, pumpkins, melons, carrots, peas, salsify, sage, strawberries
Downy mildew Perenospora	manifested mainly by a purplish- whitish coating on the underside of the leaves (cannot be wiped off!); yellow-brown spots on the upper side of the plant's leaves	Vegetables such as radishes, radishes, horseradish, lettuce, peas, lamb's lettuce, cabbage, spinach, onions; woody plants such as roses and vines (grapes)
Rust fungi Pucciniales	small brown-red rust spots on the upper side of the leaf; rust-red pustules with fungal spores spread to the underside of the leaf (with the exception of white rust, where the pustules are white); infected parts of the plant die; some shoots are also infected	Apples (apple rust), pears (pear rust), currants (currant column rust), cereals (cereal black rust, yellow rust), asparagus, carrots, onions, peas, beans and turnips
Scab Fusicladium	gray-black spots on the blossoms and brown-black spots on the upper side of the leaves and later also on the fruit; early leaf drop, the most common scab disease is apple scab, scab is caused by a fungus, gray-black spots on the blossoms and brown-black spots on the upper side of the leaves and later also on the fruit; early leaf drop	especially plants from the rose family (apples, pears, roses, etc.), potatoes (potato scab)
Sooty mold Diplocarpon rosae also called black spot disease	round black-brown spots on the leaves, which often spread in a star shape and end in jagged edges; leaves turn yellow and fall off	mainly plants of the Rosaceae family (roses, pears, apples), rarely cucumbers