

# Hawthorn Leaf Spot



## ***What are the reddish brown spots on my hawthorn leaves?***

This is a fungus (*Entomosporium mespili*) that primarily attacks English Hawthorns. The fungus is most active in the spring. The leaves are especially susceptible during prolonged periods of cool and wet weather.

## ***Will my tree die if the fungus is not treated?***

Very seldom will the tree die; however, it may lose most of its foliage in the late spring or early summer if not properly treated. Repeated annual defoliation can reduce growth and weaken trees.

## ***Is there anything that can be done to make my tree(s) healthier?***

Yes. We recommend four things:

1. Rake: Since the fungus overwinters on dead leaves and young twigs please be sure to rake them up in the fall.
2. Prune: Annual pruning will allow air movement within the canopy, as well as remove undesirable sucker shoots.
3. Fertilize: Fertilization will help strengthen the overall health of the plant.
4. Treat: It is recommend that a fungicide be applied at ¼ leaf stage, and then again at mid-bloom.