

Pest Alert

FDACS-P-02082

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

Pseudocercospora mangifericola, Mango Leaf Spot

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INTRODUCTION: The fungus *Pseudocercospora mangifericola* R.G. Shivas, A.J. Young & Grice, first described by researchers in Queensland Australia in 2009, causes a leaf spot disease on mango (*Mangifera indica* L.). On May 15, 2016, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspector collected a leaf sample which contained angular leaf spots from a mango tree located at a South Florida residence. The symptomatic leaf sample was sent to the FDACS-DPI Plant Pathology Laboratory in Gainesville where, based on fungal morphology, the causal organism was identified as *P. mangifericola*. This diagnosis was later confirmed by the USDA Systemic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland.

IDENTIFICATION: Mango is grown primarily in South Florida and is the only known host of *P. mangifericola*. Leaf spots appear on both sides of leaves but are more pronounced on the lower surfaces. They are angular to irregular, often vein limited, dark brown in the center becoming lighter towards the edges and often occurring over the entire leaf surface (Figures 1 and 2).

Warm and wet conditions favor disease development. Fungal infective propagules called conidia can be spread from leaf to leaf especially during wind and rain causing new infections. Although there are no reports on the impact of infection, it can be reasonably assumed that heavy leaf spotting will lead to leaf drop, especially on young foliage. Cleaning up and disposing of infected fallen leaf debris will reduce fungal inoculum and help prevent reoccurrence. Repeated yearly infections could stress a tree and diminish its productivity as well as its longevity.



Fig. 1 Leaf spots caused by *Pseudocercospora mangifericola*
Photo credit: Jeffery Lotz, FDACS-DPI

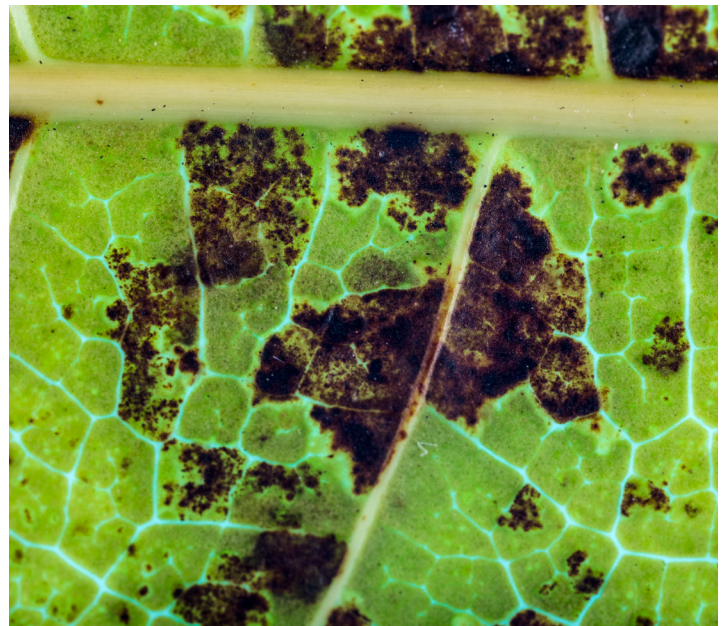


Fig. 2 Leaf spots caused by *Pseudocercospora mangifericola*
Photo credit: Jeffery Lotz, FDACS-DPI



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

REFERENCES:

- Kwee, L.T. and K.K. Chong. 1985.** Diseases and Disorders of Mango in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Tropical Press SDN.
- Shivas, R. G., A. J. Young and K. R. E. Grice. 2009.** *Pseudocercospora mangifericola* R.G. Shivas, A.J. Young & Grice, sp. nov. Fung. Plant 42:1-2.

If you suspect you have seen *Pseudocercospora mangifericola*, mango leaf spot, please contact:

Division of Plant Industry Helpline

1-888-397-1517 | (352) 395-4600 (Outside North America)

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