

Phomopsis

Phomopsis is a fungus that causes shoot blight and twig cankers.


If you have junipers, it is likely that they will develop phomopsis in their life span. The fungus may eventually kill the plants. Phomopsis also affects other Northwest evergreen ornamentals and a few deciduous trees.

Symptoms

- Look for tip blight on current season's growth. Immature scale leaves show tiny yellowish spots.
- When fungus progresses into the vascular tissue, diseased shoots turn reddish brown.
- In highly susceptible species, girdling cankers can form on stems up to 1 cm. in diameter. The resulting diseased plant in an unsightly mix of health green and infected dead reddish brown foliage.

Phomopsis blight occurs anytime succulent young foliage is available. Spores from the previous year's infected twigs cause infections early in the year. These new infections cause subsequent infections throughout the growing season. Infections become more severe with long periods of moisture.

What you can do

- Remove infected material to reduce the severity of Phomopsis. The plant's appearance will suffer greatly. This will not eliminate the disease.
- Remove a severely infected plant and replace it with one that is more resistant. Some juniper cultivars are less susceptible to the disease, or you may want a different species. Visit our web site at www.inharmony.com for a list of resistant varieties. 

References

Diseases of Trees and Shrubs. Sinclair, W.A., Lyon, H.H., and Johnson, W.T. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, New York. 1993.

Landscape Plant Problems: A Pictorial Diagnostic Manual. Byther, R.S., Foss, C.R., Antonelli, A.L., Maleike, R.R., and Bobbitt, V.M. Washington State University Cooperative Extension, 2000.

