

Leaf spot diseases

Leaf spot diseases causes more and more problems in the crop of peonies. Leaf spot fungi and Botrytis create different kinds of leaf spots on the peony. Both fungi flourish under warm and humid circumstances and they survive on crop residues.



Leaf spot infection in a peony (Photo PPO) Botrytis (left), leaf spot infection (right)

Symptoms

Leaf spots are easily distinguished from Botrytis. Below you will find a list of symptoms that occur in the case of Botrytis and leaf spots.

Botrytis:

- With Botrytis, a light brown spot arises at which half the leaf or the whole leaf quickly gets infected
- Often the infection is at the ends of the leaf
- It arises from the top
- Under humid circumstances there will be a gray spore mass on the infected leaf

Leaf spots:

- Spots spread on the entire leaf
- The spots start out as light red/crimson specks
- Later they become of focus-limited, purple brown spots

Measures:

- Use healthy starting material
- Remove crop residues after the mulching/mowing
- Watering in the morning so that the crop will be dry during the night
- Keep the humidity low when growing in a greenhouse
- Spray preventively with Daconil, Flint, Ortiva or Switch. Switch regularly between these products to prevent resistance