

ARE YOUR LEAVES INFECTED?

Tar Spot of Maple *Rhytisma*



Background:

- Leaf spots are caused by a fungus called Rhytisma - also known as Tar Spot of Maple.
- Fungus causes raised, black spots in infected leaves and early defoliation.
- Rhytisma mainly affects Norway Maple trees.

Symptoms:

- Indications of Rhytisma typically begin in mid-June as small yellow spots.
- Spots enlarge as summer season progresses, growing in diameter and thickness.
- Tar Spot rarely causes lasting damage to the tree, but heavy infections may result in leaves dropping early.
- Wet weather & cool air temperatures during the spring months create favorable conditions for Tar Spot infections.

Action:

- Troy residents are asked to rake & bag fallen infected leaves and remove them from the site of the tree.
- Removal of fallen infected leaves will prevent spores from infecting new trees in the spring.
- Do not rake leaves into the street; please bag and leave for curbside collection.

For more information or additional resources on the Tar Spot of Maple, please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (518) 272-4210 or visit www.cce.cornell.edu

Material Source: Cornell University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County



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