



THE
CHAMPION
of TREES

Tar spot of maple

[Overview](#) [Symptoms](#) [Disease Cycle](#) [Management](#)

Disease name: Tar spot of maple

Pathogen name: Three related fungi, *Rhytisma acerinum*, *R. americanum*, and *R. punctatum*

Hosts: Tar spot of maple is a fungal disease that affects only maples. It causes a great deal of concern for home gardeners due to its appearance. This disease, however, is considered a cosmetic problem, rather than a real health issue for trees. Tar spot is caused by three related fungi, *Rhytisma acerinum*, *R. americanum*, and *R. punctatum*. Symptoms vary slightly from pathogen to pathogen, but all three organisms produce leaf spots that do resemble spots of tar.

While tar spot can affect many species of maple, it is commonly reported on Norway, silver, and red maples.

**Have tree and plant questions?**

[Get expert help by contact the Plant Clinic.](#)

**Email:**

plantclinic@mortonarb.org

**Phone:**

[630-719-2424](tel:630-719-2424)

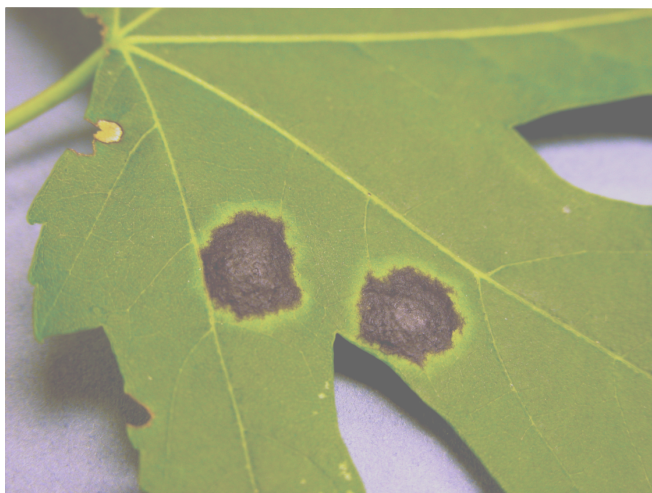


[Print this page](#)

Gallery (2)



Early symptoms of tar spot



Tar spots on a maple leaf