

Frogeye Leaf spot and black rot are caused by the fungi, *Cercospora sojina* and *Botryosphaeria obtusa*. It occurs in three phases: leaf infection, fruit rot, and branch infections.



Frogeye Leaf Spot (Patrick L. Byers)



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Black Rot
(University of GA Plant Pathology,
Bugwood.org)

Appearance:

Frogeye Leaf Spot:

- Fungus enters through the stomata on the underside of the leaves
- Tiny, purplish specks on foliage that become larger over time (circular and 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter)
- The center of the spots become dark with dark brown-purplish margins
- Yellowing of leaves and fall prematurely

Black Rot:

- Fruit infection following the appearance of frogeye leaf spot
- Can begin in the blossom of developing fruit
- Series of brown and black rings will appear as the decay expands, as well as black dots on fruit
- Rotted fruit will dry up, shrivel, and mummify

Management & Treatment:

- Sanitation is key to prevention
- Prune diseased/dead twigs and branches; dispose of prunings properly (remove from orchard and/or burn)
- Use proper pruning technique
- Cut well below diseased tissues
- Protect trees from injury
- Utilize allopathic measures like copper to address the pathogen

Sources: Michael Phillips, "The Holistic Orchard" and University of Kentucky (College of Agriculture, Food & Environment).