



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Yam leaf spot (312)



Photo 1. Typical infection on mature leaves of *Dioscorea esculenta* by leaf spots of *Guignardia dioscoreae*.



Photo 2. Yam leaf spots of *Guignardia dioscoreae* on *Dioscorea esculenta*, tan with darker margins.



Photo 3. Yam leaf spots, *Guignardia dioscoreae*, on *Dioscorea pentaphylla*.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On all yam species, but most common on asiatic yam (or lesser yam), *Dioscorea esculenta*. A minor disease, unlikely to effect yield.
- Leaf spots, circular or irregular, up to 10 mm diameter, tan or grey, merging, with dark brown or black borders. Fruitbodies can be seen as black pin points in the spots.
- Spread occurs when spores ooze from fruitbodies during wet weather and splashed by rain or carried by wind.
- Cultural control: collect debris (vines and leaves) and destroy after harvest; 2-3 year crop rotations; test varieties for differences in tolerance.
- Chemical control: unlikely to be needed, but if required use chlorothalonil, copper, or mancozeb.

Common Name

Yam leaf spot

Scientific Name

Guignardia dioscoreae. Previously known as *Guignardia dioscoreae-bulbiferae* and *Phyllosticta dioscoreae*. *Guignardia* is the sexual state, and *Phyllosticta dioscoreae* is the asexual state, i.e., spores are produced without mating strains combining.

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Photos 1-3 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Guignardia dioscoreae*. PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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