Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Algal leaf spot (148)

Summary

- Worldwide in sub-tropics and tropics. On many fruit trees, palms and spice crops. A minor disease in areas of high temperature and rainfall.
- Spots green to orange, (sometimes black) 2-4 mm, flattened, with furry growth, and indistinct margins, sometimes resulting in leaf fall and shoot dieback.
- Worse with poor nutrition, poor drainage, too much or too little shade.
- Cultural control: prune low-hanging branches; check growing conditions – drainage, nutrition, shade, adjust tree density to allow air movement, weed.
- Chemical control: no recommendations.

Common Name

Algal leaf spots, red rust (tea and coffee)

Scientific Name

Cephaleuros virescens, *Cephaleuros minimus*, *Cephaleuros parasiticus*

Photo 1. Algal leaf spots, *Cephaleuros virescens*, on avocado leaves.

Photo 2. Close-up of algal leaf spots, *Cephaleuros virescens*, showing the stalks which have spores at their tips. The spores are spread in wind and rain.

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Information from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Gmbh, Germany; and Home & Garden Information Center (2017) Algal leaf spot. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. (https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/algal-leaf-spot/); and from Algal leaf spot (undated) CTAHR, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. (https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nelsons/glossary/Algal_leaf_spot.htm). Photos 1&2 Kohler F, *et al.* (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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