

Coconut leaf spots (090)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Two leafspots: brown leaf spot (BLS) - *Pseudoepicoccum* widespread in the tropics ; and grey leaf spot (GLS) - *Pestalotiopsis* in Southeast Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Oceania. Both occur on coconut, betel nut, oil palm. Fungal diseases of low importance.
- BLS – oval spots, up to 10 mm long with grey centres and brown margins. Black powdery spores mass below. GLS – grey with thin brown border and tiny black dots containing the spores.
- Spread in wind and rain. Worse on older leaves.
- Cultural control: improve nutrition (diseases are a sign of poor growing conditions); decrease shade in nursery.
- Chemical control: none recommended as treatments would likely be uneconomic.

Common Name

Brown leaf spot and grey leaf spot

Scientific Name

Pseudoepicoccum cocos (brown leaf spot); *Pestalotiopsis palmarum* (grey leaf spot).

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Information from McKenzie E (2013) *Pseudoepicoccum cocos*: PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>. Photos 2&3 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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Photo 1. Oval spots with small grey centres and dark brown margins of *Pseudoepicoccum cocos*.



Photo 2. Oval spots, of *Pseudoepicoccum cocos*, reddish-brown, with a pale centre, with powdery black spore masses on underside.



Photo 3. Spots of grey leaf spot, *Pestalotiopsis palmarum*.

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