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## Curing leaf problems that are caused by disease

Other than moving your garden to a different climate (which is proven to be difficult), you'll need to do something if you see leaf diseases.

First, make sure it is a disease and not an insect or a fertilizer or watering problem.

**Diseases** usually mean part of the leaf is dead and brown, or dying. Sometimes that part is fuzzy with spores.

**Insects** usually eat part of the leaf, or suck out the sap. They hide under the leaf, in the soil, or in the tips of the plants.

**Fertilizer** problems, assuming that this means a lack of fertilizer, usually results in small or light green leaves, or leaves that have light or dark veining.

**Watering** problems, assuming this means chronically too little water, usually means the lower leaves will turn brown from the edges inward.

### The cures for leaf disease:

**Pick off** the damaged leaves and put them in the garbage. This can sometimes be the only cure you'll need.

**Water in the morning**, and keep water away from the leaves. Dry leaves aren't as likely to pick up a disease.

### Spray with an organic product.

Oils are products that smother the disease so it can't reproduce. Spray oils early in the day, when the leaf itself is not in full sun. Neem Oil is a good choice here. Oils will also smother insects.

Copper products have been used for centuries to help control leaf diseases. They work well, but overuse will mean that your soil can get too much copper.

Sulfur is another long-used spray. The plants will look dusty, but frequently the disease will be controlled.

**Spray with a traditional chemical.** Traditional chemicals are usually more effective, and last longer than organic sprays.

Captan has been used since 1951, and still works well. Use it on fruits and flowers, but not on vegetables.

Fungonil is another long-used chemical, and it will help with a long list of diseases. It can be used on everything, including vegetables.

Mancozeb is an old reliable that is used on vegetables and ornamentals.

Infuse is the gold standard for controlling leaf diseases. It is not for fruits and vegetables, but works great on flowers, roses, lawns, trees and shrubs.