



**A weekly question/answer column**

**What Are All Those Dark Spots On My  
Aspen Trees?**

*Bill Varga\* answers:*

Aspen trees are subject to a variety of problems, including Aspen Leaf Spot. Leaves are first infected in early spring. Fungal spores are spread by wind and rain to young emerging leaves where small, dark brown flecks with light centers develop. These spots gradually enlarge and form dead blotches on the leaves. To control this fungus:

- Rake up all fallen leaves in the autumn and discard.
- Avoid sprinkler irrigation since the splashing water spreads the fungal spores.
- Prune out lower branches to improve air circulation.
- Use protective fungicide sprays at bud break in the spring and repeat at 10- to 14-day intervals as long as wet weather continues in the spring. Dry weather slows the spread of spores.
- Use a fungicide spray throughout the summer if your sprinkler hits the trees.

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