

PLANT DISEASE REPORT

Sara May, Plant Disease Clinic

Sample: Pear 'Bartlett' (*Pyrus communis*)

Sample Location: Pike County, PA

(Sample was collected and sent to the clinic from Pike county)



Fabraea leaf and fruit spot on Pear

Also called leaf blight of pear, this disease is caused by the fungus *Fabraea maculata*. The asexual stage of this pathogen is *Entomosporium maculatum*. The leaves, fruit and shoots of pear and quince are infected and the leaves of apple can be infected. The disease can build up rapidly especially during rainy periods. If the disease is not controlled, pear trees can become defoliated in a few weeks.



Symptoms first appear as small purple dots on the leaves nearest the ground. They grow to circular spots and become purplish black or brown. A small black acervulus appears in the center of the spot. When the leaf is wet, a mass of conidia oozes from the acervulus and gives the spot a creamy, glistening appearance. Lesions on the fruit are similar to those on the leaves but they are black and slightly sunken. They can be so numerous that they run together and make the fruit crack.

Spots can be found on petioles, leaves, shoots and fruit

Entomosporium maculatum has four celled conidia with a distinctive insect-like appearance. The sexual spore stage (*Fabraea maculata*) develops on fallen, overwintered leaves. The asexual spores might also develop on overwintered leaves or in the previous season's shoot infections. Initial infections often do not occur until mid-June or early July. Secondary infections occur about 1 month later and reoccur during periods of rain.

