



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION SERVICE

## Master Gardener™ Program

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### DIAGNOSING PLANT PROBLEMS CHAPTER 16

References: (1) MG Sustainable Gardening Handbook, Chapter 16

1. The first step in diagnosing plant damage is to “define the problem” and identify what the normal plant would look like. If you were asked to determine the cause of yellow leaves on a “Sunburst” honey locust tree, your best response would be:
  - a. high pH
  - b. low pH
  - c. nutrient deficiency
  - d. yellow leaves are normal for this cultivar of honey locust

Reference:

Page Number:

2. When diagnosing a plant problem, symptoms of non-uniform damage pattern (i.e. scattered damage on one or only a few plant species) generally indicate that the problem is due to:
  - a. herbicide injury
  - b. living factors (pathogens, insects, etc.)
  - c. non-living factors (mechanical, physical, etc.)
  - d. frost damage

Reference:

Page Number:

3. Leaves on a shrub exhibit damage consisting of leaf spots that are circular with concentric rings and a dry, papery texture. The cause of these symptoms is most likely a:
  - a. fungus
  - b. virus
  - c. bacterium
  - d. nematode

Reference:

Page Number:

4. You have been asked to give a brief presentation to a group of 4-H students who are learning about insect damage in the garden. You have decided to make some charts listing the symptoms and signs of insect pest damage. Your chart will list:
- a. missing flower petals or punctured bark
  - b. general browning of conifer needles in a 14 inch high area on one side of tree
  - c. damaged leaf surface/portions of leaf missing; swellings on leaf or stem tissue
  - d. abrasion and bruising of tree bark on side facing street

Reference:

Page Number:

5. According to the Master Gardener Handbook and Integrated Pest Management guidelines, the best method for controlling early blight disease on tomatoes would be:
- a. using plant debris for mulch
  - b. spraying with insecticides
  - c. planting disease resistant varieties
  - d. watering overhead

Reference:

Page Number:

6. Typical symptoms of blossom-end rot disease on tomatoes include:
- a. spotting of fruit and leaves
  - b. dark brown, leathery spot on blossom end
  - c. water-soaked spot near the fruit's blossom end
  - d. extreme malformation and scarring of fruit's blossom end

Reference:

Page Number:

7. A young cherry tree exhibits the following symptoms: purple spots on upper surfaces of leaves; yellow leaves. You suspect that the problem is due to:
- a. powdery mildew
  - b. cherry leaf spot
  - c. peach leaf curl
  - d. curly top virus

Reference:

Page Number:

8. When a client asks you how to reduce the chances of verticillium wilt developing on grapes, your best recommendation would be:
- a. fertilize and weed heavily to encourage lots of succulent growth
  - b. plant resistant varieties and fumigate soil
  - c. control insects to decrease potential development
  - d. apply a registered insecticide and pesticide

Reference:

Page Number:

9. What are the first steps in identifying the cause of a plant's problem?

Reference:

Page Number: