CORYNESpora LEAF SPot OF LIGUSTRUM SINENSE

J. W. Miller and S. A. Alfieri, Jr.

Ligustrum sinense Lour, is a hardy, semideciduous shrub used as an accent or foundation plant around the home. Variegated and nonvariegated forms of this species exist, with the variegated much more popular (3).

A leaf spot disease caused by Corynespora cassiicola (Berk. & Curt) Wei has become increasingly serious on both forms of L. sinense in Florida. Under warm, moist conditions, the disease can lead to heavy defoliation. Other important hosts of C. cassiicola in Florida are cucumber (1), tomato (2), and hydrangea (4).

SYMPTOMS. On variegated L. sinense, symptoms begin as tiny, reddish, circular leaf spots, which enlarge to form light brown lesions with purple margins (fig. 1A). On the nonvariegated form, leaf spots are light brown with dark brown margins and prominent yellow halos (fig. 1B). The lesions often coalesce, followed by leaf abscission.

Fig. 1. Corynespora cassiicola on Ligustrum sinense: A) variegated L. sinense showing light brown lesions with purple margins; B) nonvariegated L. sinense showing light brown spots with dark brown margin and prominent yellow halo.

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CONTROL. Protective sprays of Benlate, Daconil, Dithane M-45, and Thiabendazole have given excellent disease control. Proper spacing to give good aeration also helps to decrease the damage caused by this disease.

**Literature Cited**