

Oak Leaf Blister

By Deborah Birge, Fort Bend Master Gardener

Q: My oak tree is dropping leaves and looking bad. What can I do?

A: It appears you have [Oak Leaf Blister](#). This is a fungal disease that attacks most all varieties of oak. Although the symptoms may begin after a cool, wet spring, most homeowners don't notice the problem until leaves begin prematurely falling in late summer. New leaves may have blisters and lesions while older leaves just look dry and blistered.

A good regimen of fertilization and watering will enhance tree vigor throughout the year. It is useless to spray the tree unless you've had repeated years of symptoms. In this case, you can spray the tree with a dormant oil before bud break in early spring. Additionally, remove all fallen leaves and destroy to minimize reinfection. If this is not possible, mow the leaves repeatedly then add a nitrogen fertilizer to add in a quick breakdown.

