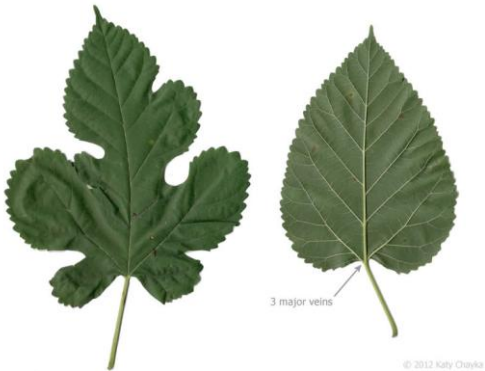


Mulberry

(Morus spp.) — White, Red, Hybrid & Fruitless Mulberries

Mulberries are tough, drought-tolerant shade trees known for **fast growth**, **dense canopies**, and (on fruiting types) **heavy berry production**. In Colorado, they are generally durable but can experience **bacterial blight**, **leaf spot**, **mildew**, **scale**, **webworms**, **bronzing from mites**, and **environmental stress**.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Bacterial blight (Pseudomonas)	Bacteria	Spring–Early Summer	🌸☀️
Leaf spot	Fungus	Spring–Summer	🌸☀️
Powdery mildew	Fungus	Summer–Fall	☀️🍂
Scale insects	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	🌸❄️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Spider mites	Mite	Summer–Fall	 
Fall webworm	Insect	Late Summer–Fall	 
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Environmental heat/drought stress	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Bacterial Blight (Common in Wet Springs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black, water-soaked leaf edges • Blighted new shoots • Leaves may curl or drop early 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune out affected shoots (dry weather) • Sanitize tools • Avoid overhead irrigation • No chemical cure—usually seasonal
Leaf Spot (Fungal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown or black circular spots • Scattered leaf drop • Often cosmetic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake leaves • Improve airflow • Rarely needs fungicide
Powdery Mildew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White powdery coating • Distorted new growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase sunlight and airflow • Fungicide only if severe

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Scale Insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard bumps on twigs • Honeydew and black sooty mold • Thinning canopy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dormant oil in winter • Treat crawler stage in late spring • Prune infested twigs
Spider Mites (Bronzing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stippled, dusty leaf surface • Overall bronzing • Fine webbing occasionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse with strong water spray • Increase humidity (light watering under canopy) • Miticide treatment if severe
Fall Webworm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webbed nests on branches • Foliage eaten inside webs • Aesthetic damage late season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove or break open nests early • Pro treatment if widespread
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honeydew • Sooty mold • Leaf curling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose off foliage • Encourage natural predators • Systemic insecticide if severe
Environmental Stress (Common in Hot, Dry Areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf scorch • Early yellowing • Sparse canopy on exposed sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2–3 weeks • Mulch 2–3" deep • Avoid planting against reflective heat

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Severe leaf blight each spring causing major defoliation
- Heavy scale infestations producing black sooty mold
- Whole branches dying back (possible canker or borer involvement)
- Intense mite bronzing causing thinning canopy

- Large webworm nests defoliating major sections
- Tree declining in compacted or drought-stressed sites

Mulberries are tough, but **chronic blight or scale**, or **site stress**, can cause long-term decline.

● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light leaf spot or powdery mildew
- Small webworm nests removed early
- Minor mite stippling
- Slight early yellowing in late summer
- Occasional aphid honeydew

Most issues are **aesthetic only** and don't threaten tree health.