

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

Overview

- **Family:** Rosaceae
- **Type:** Deciduous shrub
- **Height:** 3 to 10 feet
- **Spread:** 3 to 6 feet
- **Hardiness Zones:** 3-7
- **Uses:** Ornamental landscaping, hedges, and wildlife habitat

Characteristics

Foliage: Lobed leaves, typically dark green; some cultivars have colorful foliage (e.g., 'Diabolo').



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Powdery Mildew	Fungal	Summer	☀️
Spider Mites	Mites	Summer	☀️
Scale Insects	Insect	Spring–Summer	🌸 ☀️
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Summer	🌸 ☀️
Canker Diseases	Fungal	Summer–Fall	☀️ 🍂

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

1. Powdery Mildew

Symptoms:

- White, powdery coating on leaves.
- Leaves may become distorted.

Treatment: Improve air circulation around the plant. Water at the base, avoiding overhead watering. Apply fungicides if severe.



2. Spider Mites

Symptoms:

- Yellowing and stippling of leaves.
- Fine webbing on foliage, especially in hot, dry conditions.

Treatment: Rinse leaves with water to dislodge mites. Use miticides if infestation is severe. Maintain consistent soil moisture.



3. Scale Insects

Symptoms:

- Small, raised bumps on stems and leaves.
- Sticky honeydew or sooty mold may be present.

Treatment: Apply horticultural oils in spring. Use systemic insecticides in summer. Prune infested twigs lightly.



4. Aphids

- **Symptoms:**
 - Clusters of small, soft-bodied insects on new growth.
 - Leaves may curl or yellow.
- **Treatment:**
 - Use insecticidal soap or neem oil to control populations.
 - Encourage beneficial insects like ladybugs.



5. Canker Diseases

- **Symptoms:**
 - Sunken, cracked areas on stems.
 - Random branch dieback.
- **Treatment:**
 - Prune affected branches back to healthy wood.
 - Sanitize tools after pruning.
 - Ensure proper watering and drainage.

When to Worry vs. Cosmetic Issues

● When to Worry (Action Needed)

- Rapid dieback or browning of branches.
- Persistent powdery mildew affecting growth.
- Severe infestations of mites or aphids.

● Mostly Cosmetic (Monitor Only)

- Light stippling from spider mites.
- Minor leaf distortion from powdery mildew.

- Occasional scale presence without significant impact.