



## Silver Leaf

Posted by [Josh Willis](#)

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[Josh Willis](#)

[Silver Leaf](#)

April 25, 2022 02:11AM

Hi all-

We may or may not have a bunch of silver leaf in our small orchard -- still trying to correctly ID. Does anyone have experience with silver leaf? Any recommendations? Everything I find online says there is no fungicide to treat it. So I'm assuming just the usual holistic health, good hygiene, etc. But curious if people know of any other ideas.

Thanks.

-Josh

Registered: 6 years ago

Posts: 133

Earthworks

Zone 7a in West-Central MD

Non-commercial, ~100 fruit trees, dwarf to MM106

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[Brittany Kordick](#)

[Re: Silver Leaf](#)

May 05, 2022 02:24PM

Maybe we should do a monthly feature of obscure fungal diseases to dread; this is fun . . . and informative! Just wanted to say thanks for posting about this -- even if no one has dealt with silver leaf before and so this doesn't lead to meaningful discussion that helps you in your situation, it was great to be exposed to silver leaf (er, not literally) so that if I ever see anything like this in our orchard I'll have an instant reference point. Please keep us posted with anything you find out.

Registered: 4 years ago

Posts: 209

As far as treatment, while I can't offer anything specific to silver leaf, and yes, the perpetual promotion of overall health can only help your trees weather whatever it turns out is ailing them (although I do wonder at times, if you're dealing with a bad pathogenic bacterial/fungal infection, and are concurrently applying holistic fatty acids, etc., specifically to promote biodiverse microbial populations, are you ever inadvertently aiding "the enemy"?), with regards to our toughest fungal pathogen nuts to crack (fungal fruit rot diseases like bitter rot, *Marssonina*, and perhaps a pathogenic fungal infection masquerading as apple measles), we have become interested in looking more specifically at harnessing 'beneficial' fungi to help turn the tide.

To that end, we applied Lalstop G46, a *Gliocladium catenulatum* containing product, throughout the cooler early months of our spring season. Preliminary results have been great (to qualify this statement, this was the only major change to our usual practice/app lineup this spring, and it was a normal spring, as far as plethora of potential infection events: our trees are the "cleanest" they've ever looked at this point of the season (although, interestingly, with the exception of Cedar Apple Rust, which is in more evidence on our fruitlets, but less on our leaves, than usual). We have an occasional spot of *Glomerella* in evidence on leaves, but otherwise, nothing like the usual smorgasbord of fungal leaf spots that have typically piled depressingly on to our foliage as early as petal fall. The G46 fungi can't take the heat, so we've stopped applying it for the season and will move on to applying a new-to-us *Pseudomonas* containing product (Howler, big organic ag at its finest, but we like the biology behind it). We'll keep updating our separate threads regarding apple measles and beneficial fungi hopes as opportunity arises.

Obviously, the Lalstop G46 isn't labeled for silver leaf, but just wanted to highlight it as a perhaps helpful example of at least trying to think outside the box a bit with some of the trickiest fungal pathogens we have to deal with. Hopefully, your issue will turn out to be something more understood and manageable! Good luck and thanks again.

[Kordick Family Farm](#)

Westfield, NC

Zone 7a

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[Josh Willis](#)

[Re: Silver Leaf](#)

October 31, 2023 07:41PM

I just came across Howler for the first time, and of course, I search HON to see if anyone has used it. And here I am back on this forum topic! Glad you posted this info, even if it is only taking a year and a half for me to realize you posted the info. ; )

Registered: 6 years ago

Posts: 133

Brittany, looking back at last year and this year if you used them, how did you like the Lalstop G46 and Howler? I was pondering whether to rotate other biologicals in with or instead of our Serenade, such as Double Nickel, and now perhaps Howler or Lalstop G46. We are trying to work with FELS and Alternaria in the apples, and Brown Rot in the stone fruit. Nobody labels for FELS, though they often label Black Rot for grapes, so my hope is there is some effectiveness on Black Rot in apples, just not enough for labeling.

I also wonder about multi positioning these biologicals in the same tank mix, under the heading "More Competition and Mechanisms the Better." I'm

not sure there is good evidence for that one way or the other, given the proprietary mechanisms, so I guess that is just a general question for pondering.

Earthworks

Zone 7a in West-Central MD

Non-commercial, ~100 fruit trees, dwarf to MM106

Edited 5 time(s). Last edit at 10/31/2023 07:57PM by Josh Willis.

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[Mike Biltonen](#)

[Re: Silver Leaf](#)

October 31, 2023 09:20PM

Hi Josh,

I haven't used Howler for anything other than Fireblight. It seems to be a better alternative for fireblight than Blossom Protect. The problem with these "very ubiquitous and opportunistic pathogens in nature" is that they keep coming at you. Orchard sanitation is so important to removing inoculum from the orchard. Trying to spray your way out of it will only keep it bay for a while. The cultural and sanitary aspects are critical as well. Coupling the two practices is vital to successful control. Fortunately, alternaria is not a problem where i work and farm, but black rot can be. This past year the spray program I used controlled foliar FELS quite well (didn't use Howler), but we'll see for next year. Didn't have any fruit so can't speak to fruit infections just yet.

I too am interested in hearing about Brittany's experiences.

Also, just a note, that black rot in apples and br in grapes are too entirely different organisms.

[Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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[Brittany Kordick](#)

[Re: Silver Leaf](#)

November 01, 2023 06:54PM

We have used Lalstop G46 and Howler in our orchard for two seasons and plan to do so again next season. Our primary purpose for applications of both was to try and protect better against our myriad summer fruit rots in apples (specifically, both are labelled for *Colletotrichum* -- at the time we started using these products, they were about the only organic products touting efficacy against this pathogen; now, more and more products are amending their labels to include *Colletotrichum*, probably because Glomerella Leaf Spot and Bitter Rot are becoming more mainstream issues). We like the idea of both products and we have seen improvement in our rot situation to some extent . . . but it is very difficult to assign credit to one or both of these products, particularly the Lalstop.

What we really like about Lalstop G46 is that, in our Southeastern U.S. climate, it is something geared toward cooler, early season protection against the pathogens responsible for fruit rots. It's something we apply at really low rates as the trees come out of dormancy and we feel good about getting a biological on at that time instead of relying on harsher sprays like lime sulfur, PerCarb, etc. But since leaf spot and fruit rot symptoms don't take place until much later in the season, and as Mike states in his post, in our climate and with our pathogens in question, "they keep coming at you" all season, even as different subspecies, it is difficult to ascertain just how much protection we're actually getting from delayed dormant application of Lalstop G46.

As stated above, one of the best things about the Lalstop is that we can apply it a few (2-3) times with other general health tonic-based sprays and we should expect prolonged early season protection, and then for the fungal species in the formulation to die off once warmer temps ensue. Contrast this with the Howler, which, for our targeted pathogens, must be applied literally constantly throughout the season and at the highest label rate (7.5 lbs every 7-14 days -- the expense kills us) starting in May up until harvest. We really don't like this -- not only is it extremely expensive and hard to keep up with apps; we are relying way too heavily on a single species of beneficial bacteria. Incidentally, in spite of our heavy usage, we have not noticed any particular increase in fireblight prevention in our orchard (although this is also difficult to gauge, given our usage of AgriPhage), but it's always made us feel warm and fuzzy that there might be some fireblight prevention action to help justify our usage of Howler, as well.

So the good news: while many of our apple varieties had zero fruit this year following March freezes, we did have some varieties, generally hard cider varieties that produced higher tannins, that came through with heavy crops, and we were very surprised to notice a big reduction in fruit rot incidence overall, even in varieties that were typically full of rot. But we do a lot of spraying and it's crucial to point out that we didn't have zero fruit rot or anything, and one variety in particular, still had massive fruit rot incidence (but of course, we could look closer at which particular rot disease it was in that variety to try and sort out why there might have been discrepancies).

Of course, perhaps subtle weather factors, rather than our spray applications, were primarily responsible for this improvement. Perhaps we did a particularly great job at getting rid of inoculum during the previous season (doubtful -- we do do a great job at getting up apples from the ground, picking mummies, etc., but then all hell breaks loose during primary harvest and the ball is officially dropped for the remainder of the season, and given that last year was a bumper crop for us, there was probably even more inoculum left to overwinter than usual, and of course, we didn't get all our pruning done as usual, to boot, so probably plenty of inoculum in twigs and cankers on the trees, as well). It could have been so many things, BUT this is the first year we have noticed any improvement whatsoever in our rot situation, and it was dramatic overall. So we will probably be continuing to use both Lalstop G46 and Howler next season to some or large extent, but particularly with regard to Howler, we would like to get away from using it so consistently and to such heavy extent.

[Kordick Family Farm](#)

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 298

Registered: 4 years ago

Posts: 209

Westfield, NC

Zone 7a

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