Cedar Leaf Blight

Cedar leaf blight caused by the fungus, *Didymascella (Keithia) thujina* appears sporadically in the Pacific Northwest. Damage is rarely serious in forest stands.

**Hosts:** Western redcedar, mainly a problem of seedlings and young saplings.

**Recognition:** Foliage, especially of lower branches in dense stands, takes on a scorched appearance; in the spring leaves turn reddish-brown then gray; in fall, infected leaf twigs drop, leaving the branches bare. In the spring following infection, circular to elliptical olive-brown to black fruit bodies are formed in the upper surfaces of infected leaves.

**Disease Spread:** Spores are discharged from June to mid-October during periods of moist weather and infect new foliage; trees in the interior of dense stands or in deep ravines where the air is stagnant and moist are most likely to be infected; seedlings covered by snow are also prone to severe infection.

**Management:** Several applications of fungicide throughout summer and fall will control the disease in nurseries; no control yet devised for forest stands and is rarely required.

**May be Confused With:** Normal fall foliage drop.