Photinia  
*Photinia x fraseri*

**Propagation**

Photinia are usually propagated by softwood stem tip cuttings taken in late summer. Rooting should occur in 12-20 weeks with IBA Quick Dip 8000 PPM and intermittent mist. Using a double dip of IBA and NAA may result in faster rooting.

**Pests and Diseases**

The current Insect Management Guide for Commercial Foliage and Woody Ornamentals can be found at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IG012](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IG012). The current Professional Disease Management Guide for Ornamental Plants can be found at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP123](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP123).

**Aphids**

**Recognition:** Aphids have small pear-shaped bodies with paired cornicles (look like exhaust pipes on the rear of the insect). They may or may not have wings. Aphids cluster and feed on new growth, which may cause distortion. Sooty mold grows on honeydew excreted by the aphids. **Contributing factors:** Aphids are usually most numerous in the spring, but may be present throughout the growing season. **Management recommendations:** Aphid “mummies” are a sign that natural biological control is occurring. High aphid populations may be treated with insecticidal soaps, oils, or approved insecticides.
**Entomosporium leaf spot (Entomosporium mespili)**

**Recognition:** Dark leaf spots with purple borders may coalesce and cause distortion of new growth. Centers of older spots are often grey and may disintegrate. Infected leaves may drop from the plant.

**Contributing factors:** New growth flushes are most susceptible. The optimum temperature for disease development is between 59 and 77 degrees F. Nine to 12 hours of leaf wetness or high humidity is required for new infections to develop.

**Management recommendations:** Avoid overhead irrigation, especially in the evening or night. Avoid tight plant spacing, which limits air circulation. Maintain a low fertility level to reduce new growth. Fungicides may be necessary for disease management, rotating systemic and protectant type fungicides.

**Magnesium deficiency**

**Recognition:** Mature leaves have yellow margins but remain green along the midrib, often making a distinct ‘V’ pattern on the leaf.

**Contributing factors:** Low soil pH, root damage, or low soil magnesium.

**Management recommendations:** Check soil pH and adjust with dolomite if needed. Routine fertilization should include magnesium. To correct deficiencies, apply magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) at a rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet of soil surface area, twice a year.
Sources


Prepared by:
Juanita Popenoe, PhD, Commercial Horticulture
Lake County Extension, 1951 Woodlea Rd., Tavares, FL 32778-4052
Tel.: (352) 343-4101, FAX: (352) 343-2767
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