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Diagnosing Diseases

Today on Gardening in a Minute: diagnosing diseases.

Even the best gardeners must deal sometimes with a disease-stricken plant. But in order to treat the problem, you need to know what disease is on the attack.

About 85 percent of plant diseases are caused by fungi! And there is no shortage of fungi in Florida's warm, humid climate. Bacteria and viruses cause the rest of all plant diseases.

To diagnose a plant disease, you need to know the terminology. For example, a spot on a leaf is called a "leaf lesion," and as multiple spots grow together the symptom is called a "blight."

But a specific diagnosis of a plant disease can be difficult to make based on symptoms alone. So to properly identify a disease, take advantage of the Internet and your county Extension office!

For more information about disease and many other gardening topics, visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

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