

Peach Leaf Curl

It's been a good year for peach leaf curl!

Peach leaf curl is a fungal disease that causes developing peach leaves to become puckered and distorted with a reddish-green hue. Severely infected trees may lose leaves. Fortunately, healthy trees will put out new leaves and the disease won't be a long-term issue. Fungicide applications won't do any good at this point this year.

If the tree is less than healthy – small pale leaves and less than ideal growth from last year, a fertilizer application might be in order! Spread fertilizer on the soil surface under the branch area, using one and a third to two cups of a 13-13-13 fertilizer. Do so as soon as possible to promote new leaf growth.

Plan ahead for next year as well! Peach leaf curl can be controlled with a single fungicide application with products containing Bordeaux mixture or chlorothalonil applied this fall after leaf drop or early next spring before bud swell.