Back to IMP scouting in herbaceous perennials.

Fungal leaf spots

Anthracnose

Severe leaf spotting on a young hollyhock leaf.

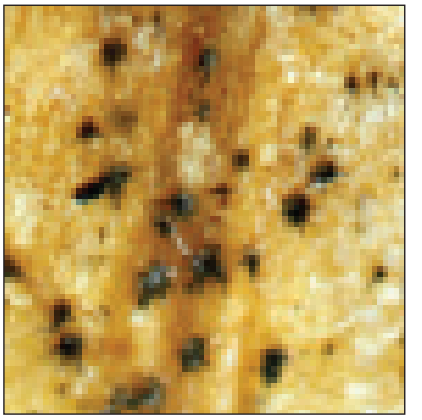
Pathogen: *Colletotrichum* spp.

Hosts include: *Althaea, Bergenia, Heuchera, Hosta, Limonium, Sedum* and *Lupinus*.

Symptoms: Symptoms vary, depending on the host. *Althaea* seedlings and young plants are especially susceptible to infection: leaf spotting and stem lesions can be severe. Lupine seedlings are especially vulnerable: infected plants wilt and have necrotic lesions on stems. Leaf spots, shepherd's crooks and crown rot develop on more mature lupine plants (see photo). Anthracnose causes severe stem girdling and crown rot on sedum. Susceptibility varies with cultivar.

Anthracnose – *continued*

Infection on hosta causes leaf spots with bleached out centers and repro-ductive structures (black dots) are often visible in these lesions.



Setae, produced in clumps on the surface of dead plant material, are a diagnostic structure.

Spread: Disease can be seed-borne in some perennial crops. The pathogen persists on infested material. Spores are splash-dispersed by rain and irrigation.

Management: Space plants to promote air circu-lation around them. Remove diseased plant mater-ial – *Colletotrichum.* spp. will sporulate readily on dead plant material in the production area. Fungicide applications may be needed. Lupine seedlings can be infected by seed- borne inoculum. Disease management must rely heavily on the use of disease-free seed and fungicide applications to seedlings.

Foliar dieback symptoms on a larger, more mature lupine plant.