

Red Leaf Blotch in Almonds: Prevention is Your Only Defense

Red leaf blotch (RLB), caused by *Polystigma amygdalinum*, infects almond leaves early in the season with symptoms emerging 30–40 days later. By the time red lesions appear in late spring, the disease is already established and cannot be controlled. Without preventive management, RLB can cause early leaf drop and tree stress, impacting nut development and weakening trees over time — **putting future yield and profitability at risk.**



Early signs:
Small pale-yellow spots on leaf surfaces



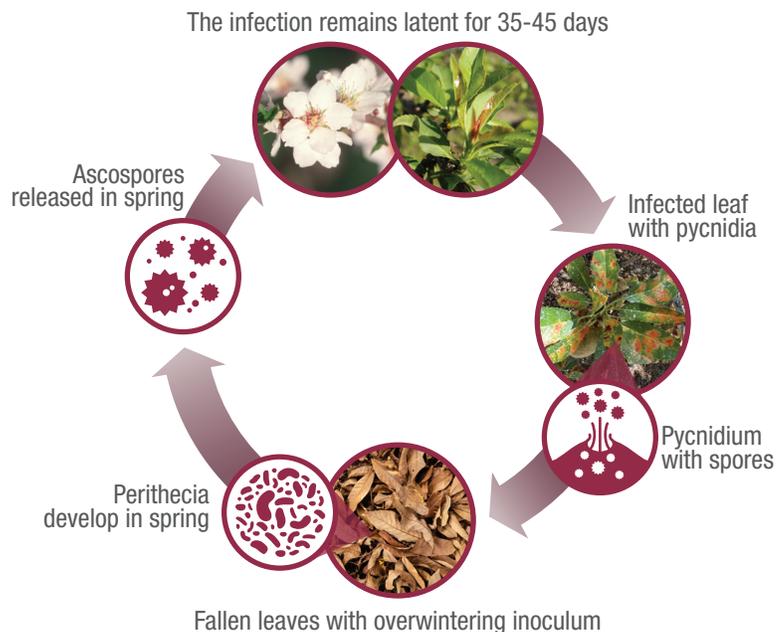
Progression:
Lesions enlarge and turn orange or reddish-brown. Blotches may merge, causing leaf curling, scorching and premature drop



Impact:
Weakens tree canopy and reduces photosynthesis

Disease Cycle

- Monocyclic: one primary infection cycle per season
- Symptoms appear after latent phase
- Fallen infected leaves serve as inoculum for next season
- Ascospores released in spring infect young leaves during rain events



Management Practices

Cultural Practices

- Remove any infected leaf litter from orchard floor
- Apply zinc sulfate (20–40 lb/acre) in late October–early November to hasten leaf fall
- Apply urea (1–2 lbs per 400 lbs leaves) to accelerate decomposition
- Clean harvest and spray equipment between orchards

Fungicide Applications

PRODUCT	Full Bloom	Petal Fall	2 Weeks Post Petal Fall	5 Weeks Post Petal Fall	Spring Sprays	Hull Split
 Miravis[®] Duo						
 Miravis[®] Prime						
 Quadris Top[®]						

STEP ONE:

Petal Fall

After your developing almonds have bloomed and petals begin to fall, apply **Miravis[®] Prime** fungicide to dial up your red leaf blotch defense. This is **the most critical timing** to help prevent red leaf blotch.

STEP TWO:

Post Petal Fall

Apply **Miravis Duo** or **Quadris Top[®]** fungicide between two to three weeks post petal fall for continued red leaf blotch protection.

STEP THREE:

Follow-Up Spray

For high-risk or vulnerable orchards, a third preventative fungicide application is recommended about five weeks after petal fall.



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Product performance assumes disease presence.

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