Quince leaf blight

**Recognize the problem**
Quince leaf blight causes small round dark brown spots that have rings inside them.

The spots sometimes unite on recently formed fruits, creating large, irregular black spots on the fruit. The disease may advance and completely kill the fruit.

**Background**
Quince leaf blight is caused by the fungus *Diplocarpon maculatum*, which survives on fallen diseased leaves and inconspicuous stem spots.

**Management**
Start the plantation on soils that do not get waterlogged. Use drip irrigation and prune at the correct times. Remove the infected leaf litter at the end of the season.

Copper fungicides are an effective method of control. Spray at 1kg per 100 L water.

The harvest is in February, March and April. The pruning is in July and August. After pruning, copper fungicides can be sprayed in order to prevent microbes.

It is better to prepare the subsoil before planting the seedlings, because if there is a hard soil layer, a Rome plow needs to be used.

If the plant is unhealthy, there is more chance of blight. Keep the plants healthy with sufficient nutrients to reduce the risk of leaf blight. At midday, the shade should be marked to show where the roots of the tree reach.

At this mark, a 15cm ditch should be made and filled with ash at the ratio of half a kilo per 3-year-old tree. The ash contains potassium, phosphorus and calcium. It is rich in all nutrients. If there are a large number of trees, that ash quantity will not be enough and a chemist should be consulted.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

**Scientific name(s)** > *Diplocarpon maculatum*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bolivia