Benton County Master Gardener Problem Diagnosis Scenario #28
(Anthracnose on dogwoods)

| Problem |
The leaves on my dogwood tree are discolored. The tree itself looks unhealthy. |
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| Description (Early June) |
Leaf edges are brownish, especially at tips. Flowers are also brown tipped. |

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<th>Questions and Answers</th>
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**Question**: Where on the tree is this problem?  
**Answer**: All over the tree.  

**Question**: When did the problem first appear?  
**Answer**: About time of flowering (early to mid spring).  

**Question**: What happens during the course of the year?  
**Answer**: All appears okay as leaves are coming out. Around time of first blooming, leaf tips begin turning brown. During full bloom, more of each leaf is turning brown. Some dead branches are evident later on. There is poor fruit set with reduced size fruit. Leaves fall early.  

**Question**: What type of dogwood tree?  
**Answer**: Eastern flowering dogwood (*cornus florida*).  

| Reference(s) |
WSU Extension  
[http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/lpro003/lpro003.htm](http://gardening.wsu.edu/library/lpro003/lpro003.htm)  

| Diagnosis |
**Anthracnose** (*Discula* species, a fungus): Large, brown irregularly shaped patches develop on the leaves. They are usually well defined with dark grayish green, purple, or brown margins. Infections can be located on the leaf mid-vein forming wedge-shaped blotches. Sometimes leaves have brown spots (1/16-1/4” across, often with dark brown to purple margins. Spots and blotches may be on the same leaf. Infected leaves usually drop early. Defoliation may be severe. *Cornus kousa* have good resistance. Native dogwoods are highly susceptible. Disease occurs most frequently when spring/summer is moist.  

| Recommendations |
**Cultural**: Gather leaves and dispose of (hot compost is not okay). Prune out dead branches and carefully dispose of in garbage or burn. After pruning, clean pruning tools with alcohol or 10% bleach solution to prevent re-infection or infecting other trees. Results will probably be incomplete as it is difficult to remove all infected tissue.  
**Biological**: none  
**Chemical**: Spray as recommended in PNW
Healthy tree

Affected tree

Severely affected tree, one week later