

Frost Injury to Alfalfa

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We are seeing some frost injury to alfalfa leaves. It appears as the misshapen leaf tips shown in the circles of the picture below. Frost can damage leaves in early stages of development and then damage become apparent as the leaves mature. This injury likely occurred during the Easter weekend frost and is now becoming apparent. Note that leaves on the stem above the misshapen leaves (which developed later) look normal. This frost damage will have little to no affect on the alfalfa.

There is also some brown leaf spot on some of the leaves in the picture. This, too, will likely be insignificant. If the leaf spot become more prevalent on the plant, it could be an indication of phoma and crown rot.

If you have questions, please contact Brian Hudelson at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/index.html>).

