



HOME | ORNAMENTAL CHERRY DISEASES

# Ornamental Cherry Diseases

Informational table showing disease name, symptoms, pathogen/cause, and management of Cherry diseases.

 ARTICLES | UPDATED: JULY 31, 2016



Disease	Symptoms	Pathogen/Cause	Management
Black knot	Dark-brown to black, hard swellings form on twigs and branches. At first these galls are small but continue to enlarge each year, becoming very rough. Each spring, galls are covered with dark, olive-green, felt-like growth. Branches may be girdled and die.	<i>Plowrightia morbosa</i> (formerly, <i>Apiosporina</i> )	Prune and destroy galls, cutting several inches below the gall whenever they are found but especially during dormancy. Remove unwanted <i>Prunus</i> species from the area. If the trunk or a large branch is affected, cut out the gall and also remove about 1 inch of wood around the gall. Apply a

Disease	Symptoms	Pathogen/Cause	Management
			fungicide just as green tissue is seen in the spring and again just before and just after flowering.
Brown rot	Flowers collapse and brown quickly. Small cankers form on twigs and gum oozes out. Ripening fruits brown and shrivel as they become covered with tan to gray masses of spores. While many fruits fall, some shriveled mummies are left on the tree.	<i>Monilinia fructicola</i>	Apply a fungicide when blossoms first open and again at 70 to 90 percent bloom.
Coccomyces leaf spot	Circular, purple to reddish-brown spots up to 1/8 inch in diameter form on the leaf early in the summer and more spots develop as the season progresses. Spots may fall away, leaving a shot-hole appearance. Infected leaves yellow and fall prematurely.	<i>Blumeriella jaapii</i> ( <i>Coccomyces</i> )	Apply a fungicide as leaves emerge in the spring.
Leucostoma canker	Branch dieback and multiple perennial cankers occur on infected trees. A gummy substance accumulates in the inner bark and erupts through cracks or lenticels in the bark. The gum becomes a blackened crust around the canker. Trees with freeze damage and those under drought stress are most susceptible.	<i>Leucostoma cincta</i> or <i>L. personii</i> (formerly <i>Cytospora</i> )	Infection can occur at any time of the year. When the tree is growing, it walls off the fungus. When tree growth slows or stops, the fungus continues invading. Prune cankered limbs and promote tree vigor.
Necrotic	Leafing is delayed in the	Necrotic ring spot	This virus can be transmitted

Disease	Symptoms	Pathogen/Cause	Management
ring spot	spring on individual branches or the entire tree. Leaves are smaller than normal and fewer in number. Expanding leaves have light green spots up to 1/4 inch in diameter and dark ring and line patterns. Leaf margins are wavy and blades are rough. Spots on the leaf die and fall out. Bark splitting and branch dieback occur on severely affected plants.	virus	mechanically, through grafting, through seed, and in pollen. Destroy infected trees. Plums and other stone fruits are also susceptible.



Black knot on twig







Crown gall on roots (Photo courtesy of V. Cotrone)

Prepared by Gary W. Moorman, Professor of Plant Pathology

© 2020 Penn State Extension

---