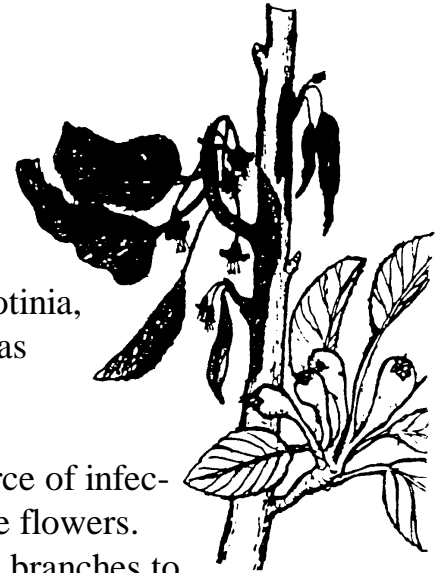


FIREBLIGHT

WHAT IS FIREBLIGHT? A bacterial infection (*Erwinia amylovora*) that is destructive to plants belonging to the pome tribe of the Rosaceae family. It is common to pears, apples, loquats, Pyracantha, quince, and crabapple. It also may attack Photinia, Cotoneaster, Raphiolepis, cherry, plum and apricot but it is not as common a problem on these plants.



HOW IS IT SPREAD? Bees & other insects are the major source of infection, spreading the bacteria from tree to tree as they pollinate the flowers. The disease survives through the winter in twigs and cankers on branches to provide a source of infection the following spring. The bacteria are released during moist weather in the early spring. Fireblight may also be spread on pruning tools. When pruning suspected plants, always sterilize the tools.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS? The blooms, young fruit, and leaves on small twigs suddenly wilt, turn dark brown or black, shrivel and die but remain attached to the twigs. The disease may progress downward into the branches and limbs, where dark, sunken areas develop in the bark. These cankers slowly enlarge & may girdle the limb, resulting in its death. Development of the disease within the plant is favored by high humidity and temperatures in the 70 to 85 degree range.

WHAT CAN BE DONE IF A TREE HAS FIREBLIGHT? Immediately prune out infected branches well below the area of infection. After each cut sterilize shears with a disinfectant to avoid spreading the disease on the shears. Hexol or Lysol at the disinfectant strength, or household bleach, using 1 part to 9 parts water, will prevent contamination. (the bleach can be corrosive to some metals) Place the infected branches in a bag and send to the dump.

COULD IT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED? Yes. Spraying with either ALIETTE or KOP-R-SPRAY will prevent the disease from entering the plant. Begin spraying as flowers open. Repeat at 7 day intervals during blooming period. Apply enough spray to thoroughly wet the flowers. Follow label instructions for dilution and precautions.

These recommendations are made to the best of our knowledge from information available. They are offered free of charge and without warranty as to results. When using any chemical always follow directions & observe precautions on the label.