



Black Knot Information Sheet: May 1.2014

Black Knot is very common in Choke Cherries and Mayday Trees.

One of the easiest diseases to recognize, Black Knot is becoming a common sight on many trees in urban and rural areas of Alberta.

The dark lumps (galls) are the signs of a fungus, which feeds on trees and disfigures it . A tree will continue to grow, but if left untreated, the symptoms will continue to appear and grow larger. The end result of not treating this fungus will be a highly stressed, distorted unattractive tree. If the Black Knot Galls are allowed to enlarge, branches and even the trunk can become girdled causing die back.

Symptoms are usually not evident until the following season of infection. The Black Knot you see are represent infections that have occurred as much as 20 months earlier. The initial symptoms sometimes appear as tiny galls on branches or merely as swellings of the shoot tissue, giving the shoot a cork like appearance. After the winter and into the second season, the knots develop rapidly changing from a spongy olive green mass to the hardened "charcoal-like" gall. The foliage of the tree at this time can be extensive and Black Knot can be masked by the leaves during the summer.

The fungus is spread by wind and splashing rain. Infection often takes place during wet periods. Young green shoots and wounded tissues are the most susceptible to infection by the spores of the fungus. Best control of this fungus is to prune it out as early as possible to prevent further spread.



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Fireblight Information Sheet: May 1.2014

Fireblight is very common in Mountain Ash Trees and Crab Apple Trees.

The leaves will appear red and fire-scorched, hence the name. Blighted leaves eventually brown and die but remain attached to the tree. The new growth exhibits a dramatic downward wilting at the tips, resulting in a distinct "shepherd's crook" on the ends of infected twigs. Sometimes, a clear amber liquid may be found oozing from diseased twigs. This liquid is highly charged with the bacterium, which causes the disease. Transferring even a small amount to healthy trees can generate new infections.

The fire blight bacteria is spread a number of ways. This includes insect transmission and strong winds and rain. Hailstorms can spread the disease by wounding the bark and making the tree vulnerable to infection.

The best way to control the disease is to prune, remove and destroy all diseased wood. Pruning can also be a means of transmission, therefore, it is critical to use the correct procedure. This will ensure that no diseased wood is left and no healthy wood is accidentally infected.



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