

## Cherry: Bacterial canker

Use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) for successful plant problem management.



### Biology

Bacterial canker is favored by cool, wet weather and is common in western Washington. The bacteria overwinter in cankers, buds and other host tissues. Dark cankered areas on trunks and branches may develop and expand in early spring. The infected tissues may produce gum, although gumming can also be caused by other factors. The cankers often girdle twigs and branches, causing dieback above the lesion. Leaves on girdled twigs often yellow and fall by late summer.

Infected buds may be killed or leaf infections may occur as the new growth emerges resulting in collapse of leaves. Infection can be spread by wind, rain, insects, pruning tools, or by planting or grafting with infected stock. The disease may spread throughout the entire tree (systemic infection) with or without visible symptoms.

### Management Options

- Avoid injury.
- Burn or cut out cankers on branches or trunks. Caulterizing should be done in the spring prior to bloom. Check cauterized areas for continued bacterial activity 15-20 days later.
- Control weeds, which may serve as a source of bacteria.
- Prune out and destroy infected tissues during dry weather. Make cuts well below visible canker and sterilize tools frequently. Do not remove cankers at the same time as regular pruning.
- Remove severely infected trees.

Focus on cultural management first. If you supplement with chemical control, make one application in October during leaf fall prior to fall rains. Then make a second application in early January. Products containing copper may have limited efficacy due to resistance.

**If you choose to use a pesticide, some examples of products that are legal in Washington are listed below. Always read and follow all label directions.** This list may not include all products registered for this use.

- Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide Conc/Organic Gardening
- Lilly Miller Kop-R-Spray Conc
- Monterey Liqui-Cop Copper Fungicidal Garden Spray
- Soap-Shield Flowable Liquid Copper Fungicide

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## Cherry: Brown rot blossom blight and fruit rot

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### Biology

Brown rot is a blossom-infecting fungal disease. Infected flowers wilt and die. The brown blossoms remain attached to the twigs, becoming covered with a grayish-brown fungal growth during wet weather. Blossom or fruit infections may spread to twigs. Infected twigs develop sunken, elongate cankers with gumming at the margins. Leaves on girdled shoots turn brown and remain attached. Infected fruit initially show a small brown spot which rapidly enlarges. The fruit remains fairly firm and often becomes covered with gray-brown fungus. Fruit may dry and harden into mummies, which serve as a source of infection in the spring.

### Management Options

- Avoid wounding fruit during harvest.
- Control insects that cause wounds and provide infection sites for the fungus.
- Prune out infected twigs in late spring or summer. Do not wait until the dormant season, when infected twigs are difficult to distinguish.
- Remove mummified fruit in the tree or under the tree to reduce spread of disease.
- Provide good air circulation to reduce moist conditions which favor disease development.
- Apply fungicides just before blossoms open. Make additional applications at full bloom, and when most or all of the blossom petals have fallen. Do not use sulfur products during bloom west of the Cascades. Do not apply copper fungicides after full bloom.

**If you choose to use a pesticide, some examples of products that are legal in Washington are listed below. Always read and follow all label directions.** This list may not include all products registered for this use.

- Bonide Fung-onil Lawn & Garden Disease Control R-T-S
- Bonide Fung-onil Multi-Purpose Fungicide Conc
- Bonide Infuse Systemic Disease Control
- ferti-lome Dusting Sulfur
- Hi-Yield Dusting Wettable Sulfur
- Lilly Miller Kop-R-Spray Conc
- Monterey Liqui-Cop Copper Fungicidal Garden Spray
- Ortho Max Garden Disease Control Conc
- Spectracide IMMUNOX Multi-Purpose Fungicide Spray Conc

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