



NWTS News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- We will identify tree problems for free
- We can help suppress or control most disease issues
- There are many things a home owner can do to help

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Spring Diseases

“April showers bring May flowers”. We’ve all heard that rhyme and in the Pacific Northwest, we live it. Unfortunately, April (plus March and May) showers also bring disease issues to many trees, shrubs and plants. We need rain to promote our PNW environment. However, too much, too long a duration or rain at the wrong time can cause many problems.

Too much rain causes flooding or saturated soils. Some trees, like Willows, are tolerant to excessive soil moisture and survive well. Others, like Honey Locust, can tolerate short periods of excess soil moisture. Filberts can’t tolerate any extremes in soil moisture and will die. This is why planting the proper tree in the proper location is key to

survival. For more information about tree moisture tolerances and other specifications please visit our website, www.nwtreespecialists.com

Another problem with saturated soils are soil borne diseases. One of our most trouble some disease is Phytophthora (fi-top-thora). Phytophthora effects many trees and shrubs, especially rhododendron, ash, flowering pear, cherry and plum. One species of Phytophthora is responsible for sudden oak death in southern Oregon and Northern California.

Most of our diseases are air borne. Spores (“disease seeds”), released by the fruiting bodies of the disease, are blown around by the wind or splashed from one

site to another. When these spores land on a viable leaf or stem, they start to grow, if the environment is right. A little rain, followed by a long, dry spell and most diseases don’t establish. However, get continuous rain and diseases multiply like bunnies.

Just like us, diseases generally don’t do much harm if the host is healthy. A stressed or injured host will be more affected. However, if the conditions are right, even a healthy tree will show signs of disease.

This is why it is important to always keep your trees healthy. Proper fertilizing, watering, mulching and pruning will protect your investment.. At NW Tree Specialists we can help protect your investment.

Anthracnose

Anthracnose is a popular NW disease infecting dogwood, sycamore, ash, maple and other tree and shrub species.

We featured this disease in our January issue which can be found at www.nwtreespecialists.com/newsletter.php.



Anthracnose damage on Sycamore

Brown Rot Blossom Blight



A healthy cherry tree

Portland may be the Rose City but out of all the disease concerns I've been called upon in the last two decades, flowering cherry trees are at the top of the list. And the number one problem is brown rot blossom blight, or BRBB.

BRBB effects flowering cherries, and plums, by rotting the blossoms (hence the clever name). If severe enough, the disease can spread in to the stems, causing branch loss and deformity.

Preventative treatments and proper fertilizing help reduce the disease pressure to ensure a few extra weeks of beautiful blossoms.



A cherry infected with BRBB

"All trees, and homeowners, have a threshold of disease tolerance"

Treatments

Most diseases can be suppressed or controlled, but in order to do this they need to be treated preventatively every year to avoid severe infections.

All trees, and homeowners, have thresholds of disease tolerance. Repeated infections resulting in leaf drop and branch die back causes unwanted stress on trees. Without treatment, repeated stress shortens the life of your trees.

As a homeowner you want to protect your investment. At NWTS we offer organic, bio rational and non-invasive conventional means to protect your trees.

With new chemistries, most of our diseases can be dealt with by spraying the trunk once or twice a year in the spring. This alleviates the old measures of 4 or 5 canopy sprays which drift off target or drip on unwanted

plants.

Keeping a tree healthy is as important as you eating right. We offer deep root feeding using slow release fertilizers combined with organic and natural predators to help control diseases.

And of course your trees can only be healthy if they are in a healthy environment. Our compost tea helps rebuild soil health and microorganisms to make this happen.



Shot Hole on cherry leaves

Shot Hole

Shot hole affects cherry, plum, peach, laurel and other hosts. The name implies the symptoms of having multiple holes resembling bullet holes.

This disease is actually caused by a bacteria, not a fungus. In the early stages, leaves have small 1-5mm water soaked spots on the leaves.

Later, these spots turn purple or brown and may have yellow halos around them. Eventually, the spot falls out, leaving a hole. Affected leaves may fall off.

Numerous years of infection can weaken and stress trees. Bacteriums are hard to control chemically. There is one trunk spray being tested right now but all the results are not in.

Compost tea and deep root fertilization keeps the trees healthy. Raking up the leaves in the fall helps keep the bacteria source at a minimum.

Shot hole won't directly kill your trees, but it can make them look unsightly.

Scab

Scab disease is the second biggest problem in the PNW. It affects the leaves, stems and fruit of apples, crabapples, pears and flowering pears.

Like our other diseases, wet weather plays a role, except cool temperatures don't keep it inactive.

Fungal spores overwinter on leaf litter and produce about the time buds begin to develop. These spores are splashed or blown on to plant tissue and begin to grow.

Infections first appear as olive-

green spots with indefinite borders. Over time they grow larger and become greenish-black. Leaves usually drop when the infection gets severe enough, but not before they infect developing fruit, twigs and buds.

As with Brown Rot Blossom Blight, numerous years of infection can stress the tree in to developing other health issues. If it's an edible apple or pear, the fruits develop hard spots, or scabs. This usually doesn't make the fruit inedible, just aesthetically unpleasing.



The same treatments apply to scab as they do for Blossom Blight. However, it is very important to clean up leaf debris in the fall, not the spring, since the disease overwinters.

Remind your neighbors as well, since their leaves will eventually end up in your yard.

If spraying, fertilizing and cultural activities don't help control a disease, consider replacing it with a resistant variety.

Honorable Mentions

Phytophthora—This is a root rot that develops in poorly drained soil. It is treatable through bark sprays and/or our deep root feeding and compost tea programs. Most trees and shrubs are susceptible.

Verticillium Wilt—This is a soil borne, vascular disease that plugs water conducting vessels in a tree. Drainage also plays a role in this disease. There is no cure, yet, but infected trees can be kept alive for many years through our deep root

feeding and compost tea programs. Maples, Japanese maples, ash and redbud are some examples that are susceptible.

Seridium Canker—This is a newer, silent disease. It's a wind borne disease that affects stressed trees. It's easily identified by small branches that turn red and die. Unfortunately there is no warning, but bark sprays are very effective in treating this disease along with pruning, fertilization and compost tea.

Incense cedars are the most susceptible but other cedars and junipers are affected as well.

Fire Blight— This is another bacterial disease but can be treated with bark sprays. Again, it affects stressed or damaged trees. Signs appear as blackened leaves and twigs, with twigs forming a "shepherds crook". The rose family is affected by this disease: apple, pear, plum, peach and cherry along with hawthorns.

Leaf Spot

There are many leaf spots or diseases that are classified as leaf spots. You've probably seen black spot on roses. Willows show another example. Some of you may have photinia running down your property line that seems to drop leaves and thin quit drastically.

This is known as *Entomosporium* leaf spot. This disease overwinters on

leaf debris and is splashed or wind blown to a new leaf. The infection looks like a tiny circular spot that is a darker red than the surrounding leaf color. Later, a red halo appears around this. Again, repeated years of infection will stress the shrub. Our bark sprays are being tested for this disease. Fertilization or compost tea promotes good health.

Culturally, rake up all debris in the fall since the disease overwinters. Thinning for air circulation is effective. Photinia should always be planted in full sunlight so it can dry quickly.



Photinia (*Entomosporium*) leaf spot



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We offer the following services:

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- Insect and Disease Control**

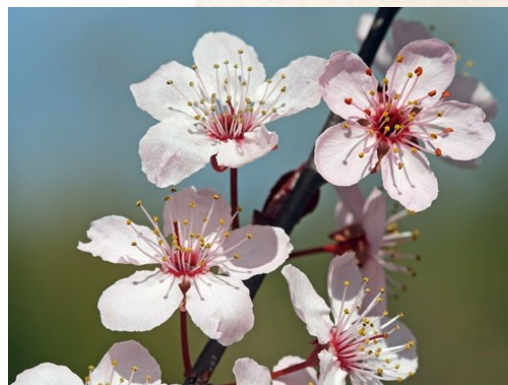
We use many organic and green options
Call and one of our arborists will visit to give
you a free estimate

Flowering Cherry

Flowering cherries now encompass many various forms, blossom colors and height. Some are weeping or small shrubs. Others are medium-sized trees. The flowers are either pink or white.

Flowering cherries are also known as Japanese Cherries, their country of origin. In 1905, Dr. David Fairchild of the USDA brought some back with him from Japan, and planted them at his estate in Maryland. Later in 1910, the Empire of Japan gave the United States 2,000 flowering cherries which were planted along the Potomac River, a tradition still practiced today.

Since then, flowering cherries are everywhere. There are at least two dozen varieties!



They are all perfect

For more tree info visit our website www.nwtreespecialists.com/tree_species_info.php