



WHAT IS BLACK KNOT?

Black Knot (*Apiosporina Morbosa*) is a common **fungal disease** that causes black swelling in the stems of trees. Surveys in Alberta show significant and widespread distribution of the disease found in commercial, municipal, private and natural plantings. Black Knot **spores are released** following periods of warm, wet weather and are spread by heavy rainfalls, wind, birds and insects. As the infection spreads throughout the tree, it can cause disfigurement and reduce the growth of the branches. If it becomes heavily infected the tree can become stunted and may eventually die from the disease. The fungus also puts the tree under considerable stress which makes it vulnerable to pests and other diseases in its weakened state. This usually **occurs on the sides of branches and twigs**. The swelling will grow until it is mature after 2-3 years. The mature galls are hard, black, 10-15 cm and may be somewhat ruptured. The fungus continues to grow internally and externally, with the branch becoming girdled and dying.

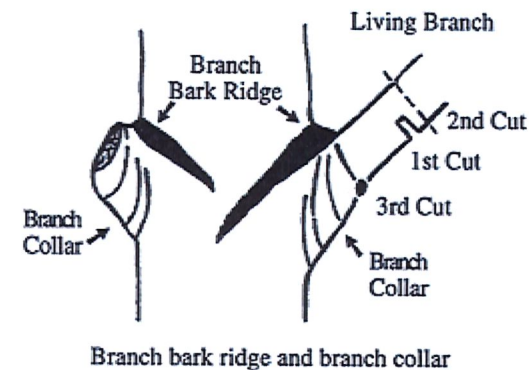


AFFECTED SPECIES

- Amur Cherry • Mayday Tree • Apricot • Mongolian Cherry • Black Cherry • Nanking Cherry • Chokecherry • Pin Cherry • Dropmore Cherry • Cultivated Plum • Flowering Almond • Wild Plum • Flowering Plum • Prunus Hybrids • Japanese Plum • Sand Cherry • Korean Cherry • Sour Cherry • Native Cherry



What can be done to control Black Knot?



PROPER TRIMMING TECHNIQUE

Prune out all knot-bearing branches during **late fall, winter or early spring** when plants are dormant and knots are easy to see. Remove infected branches to at least 6-8 inches below the knot. Cutting blades should be cleaned and disinfected after pruning, especially if cuts have been made through obviously infected material. For knots on scaffold branches or trunks that can't be removed, cut away diseased tissue down to good wood and at least a ½ inch beyond the edge of the knot. **Diseased wood must be destroyed immediately** (burned or removed from site). Diseased knots can produce and **release spores for up to 4 months** after removal.

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