

Problem: Black Knot - *Apiosporina morbosa*



Host Plants: Cherries, plums and occasionally other members of the Prunus group such as peaches and apricots.

Description: This disease causes thick, warty, irregular growths and occurs on cherries, plums, and other members of the Prunus group. The fungus survives the winter in the knots, and in springtime spores are spread to new, succulent growth during wet weather leading to new infections. Black knot can eventually trigger severe dieback and can cause major losses in commercial plum or cherry orchards.

Recommendations: Sanitation is key to controlling this disease in home plantings. Scout trees in the winter and prune out affected branches before bud break, cutting two to four inches below the visible gall. Don't drop the prunings to the ground—burn, bury, or discard them or they will serve as a source of spores just as if they were still in the tree.

References:

1. [Black Knot of Plums and Cherries](#), Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet HYG-3011-08.

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