

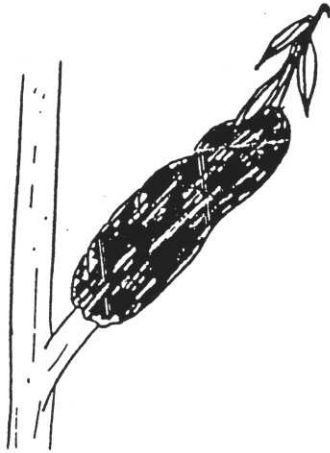
THE EXTENSION LINE

By Bob Mugaas
Minnesota Extension Service



Black knot is a fungal disease which attacks cherries, chokecherries, plums, peaches and apricots. It takes its name from the growths the fungus produces on the infected wood. Hard, black, elongate swellings appear two years after infection (Fig.1). These infected areas may increase in size yearly and eventually girdle the branch.

Initial infection by the black knot fungus occurs in the spring during wet periods. Previously formed knots produce spores which are wind blown or splashed over to the current season's growth or a wound and cause infection. The fungus grows internally in the twig and a slight swelling or cracking of the outer bark may be evident by fall. The fungus



overwinters in this area and the next spring the bark ruptures and a light yellowish growth fills the crevices of the swollen area. By late spring the knots are covered by a velvety olive green layer of spores. During their second summer they expand rapidly, and in late summer or early fall the growth has reached its full size and is hard and black.

In landscape plantings control of black knot is easily accomplished with spring pruning and a dormant season application of lime sulphur or bordeaux mixture. First, remove all branches showing any swelling or bark cracking as well as those with the typical black knots in late winter **before** new growth begins. Prune at least 3 to 4 inches beyond the swollen or knotted areas as the fungus may be further into the tissues than it appears. Second, watch for the development of new galls or swollen areas during the growing season and remove these during dry weather.

The application of a fungicide during the dormant season helps to reduce the inoculum (spores) available for infection of the new growth in the spring. Apply lime sulphur or bordeaux as a dormant application (*see label for directions*) to the plants in early spring before new growth begins. It is a good idea to spray after pruning.

Wild plums and cherries may also be infected and can serve as a source of inoculum for properties adjacent to natural areas. Where possible these infections should be removed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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Michael Daly		F	Ciba-Geigy Corp.
Blair Hawkins, Jr.		D	Mendakota Country Club

NEW MEMBERS—MARCH 21

Beth Greeninger	Class	D	Woodhill Country Club
Kurt Haugen		D	Woodhill Country Club
Jeffrey Larsen		C	Pebble Creek
Kevin Nieman		BI	Rolling Green
Mike Romundstad		D	Town & Country
Stephen Williams		BI	Town & Country

RECLASSIFICATION

Joseph Baker	C to B	Birnamwood
Brooks Ellington	A-B	Brookview
Thomas Feriancek	BI to B	Oxbow Country Club
William Larson	B to A	Town & Country
Robert McKinney	BI to B	Mendakota
Ed Peterson	D to BI	Tartan Park
Kevin Schockman	B to A	Dahlgreen
Gregory Spencer	BI to A	Brookview
Francis Reiter	A to AA	Minnehaha

DECEASED

Alfred F. Sterk	St. Paul
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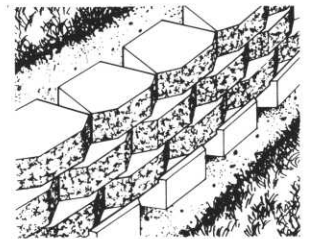
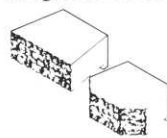
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