

ask the expert

BY BALAKRISHNA RAO

Anthracnose on maple

I have a Japanese maple that has white spots on some of the leaves and dying branches on the top. What is the problem, and how do I treat it? Also, do you know where I can find a dwarf apple?

— MICHIGAN

The foliar symptoms you have described suggest anthracnose fungal disease. The dieback you mentioned could be related to a number of stress factors. For example, if the root system is damaged, the corresponding top growth will show declining symptoms. Generally, maples produce surface roots. If these roots are cut off or damaged, the connecting aboveground parts will show dieback.

Another reason for the dieback is the activity of maple wilt fungal disease caused by *Verticillium* sp. To further diagnose this, take a finger-sized branch, remove the bark and look for greenish discoloration. If the twig is dry, it may not display the green well. In this case, slightly wet the cut surface and look for greenish discoloration in the xylem. If the xylem is plugged by fungal activity, wilting and dieback will occur.

For positive diagnosis, send representative samples to the diagnostic clinic or the Cooperative Extension Service. For anthracnose disease management, apply fungicide treatments in early spring two to three times at 7- to 10-day intervals. For maple wilt disease management, reduce stress and improve plant health care through proper mulching, watering and fertilizing.

To find a dwarf apple, contact some reputable nurseries such as Stark Brothers, Henry Fields, Gurneys Seed and Nursery

Co., and Miller Nursery. Make sure the dwarf apple trees are adaptable to the cold hardiness zone in your area.

Why all the rust?

We are seeing more and more rust disease in lawns. Do you know why? Also, how can we manage this? Some of our clients think we are spreading the disease through our mowers, shoes, etc.

— MICHIGAN

Rust disease makes lawns unattractive. In many situations, however, turf will recover.

In recent years, there has been an increase in rust problems. One factor could be related to not bagging clippings. Many cities are now imposing laws that don't allow you to collect clippings after mowing. This exposes healthy turfgrass to infected turfgrass clippings, and under certain conditions will spread disease.

It's also possible to spread the disease with mowing equipment and shoes but this is usually not the main cause. The reason is because there are disease-causing agents in other areas as well. Unless the turfgrass is susceptible and favorable conditions exist, the disease will not establish just because spores are present. For any disease to occur, there must be a susceptible turfgrass, virulent pathogen and favorable environment.

For disease management, consider using fungicides such as Bayleton, Rubigan, Banner or Heritage. Repeat treatments as needed. Two to three applications at 10- to 14-day intervals should provide adequate control. Where feasible, pick up the clippings, and water as needed in the morning.

Messy cottonwoods

Each year, nearby cottonwoods shed seeds with a fluffy, cotton-like substance, and this creates a problem. How can we get rid of these? Is there a product we can inject to eliminate these messy seed structures? When should we treat?

— ILLINOIS

Cottonwood trees (*Poplar* sp.) can present a serious problem when they begin to produce seeds, which are attached to cotton-like outgrowth. During the seed production and dispersal period, they can be blown to different places by the wind. This can trigger allergies or become a "messy" nuisance.

Florex growth regulator, a spray treatment, can eliminate undesirable, messy fruit. It is best to apply the treatment when most of the flowers are open in the spring. More research is needed to fine-tune the suitable treatment period. Applying from full bloom to petal fall in the spring should be adequate. Thorough coverage is important. While treating, make sure there are no nontarget objects like cars in the area since Florex causes a reaction on car paint.

I'm not familiar with any products you can inject for fruit elimination. Following good application techniques will help minimize drift potential.

Read and follow label specifications for best results.



Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: "Ask the Expert" Landscape Management; 7500 Old Oak Blvd.; Cleveland, OH 44130, or email: sgibson@advanstar.com. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear.

ask the expert

BY BALAKISHNA

Want a new source for pest information?



www.pestfacts.org

Termites, cockroaches, rodents, even poison ivy and other nasty weeds. They're all pests, which means they can cause real problems that pose health and safety risks to children and adults. The good news is now you've got the Pest Facts Information Center at www.pestfacts.org. It's a handy resource discussing the problems caused by pests, as well as the safe and responsible use of urban pesticides and related issues. So don't just sit there...log on.





Easy stump removal

BlueBird International's new stump grinder maximizes cutting performance with its 14-in. diameter blade with carbide-tipped teeth, offering a variable cutting depth up to 12 in. A HiPower Double V drive belt offers more operating stability and control. An adjustable, ergonomic handle reduces operator fatigue, and user-friendly lift handles simplify transport to and from job sites. The stump grinder comes with either a 9- or 11-hp Honda engine.

For more information contact BlueBird at 303/288-5880 or www.bluebirdintl.com / circle no. 250

Washing parts

National-Spencer's new 20-gal. capacity parts washer removes particles and soil from mechanical parts. It features a fusible-link steel cover that closes automatically in the event of a flash fire, stores up to 12 gallons of solvent, and re-circulates 50 gallons of solvent per hour. A built-in drain and chrome-steel flexible spigot come standard, and an optional cleaning brush attached by vinyl hose is available through special order.

For more information contact National-Spencer at 316/265-5601 / circle no. 251



Turbo-charged chipping

Ariens' Pro Chip 12115 features a turbo-charged 115-hp diesel engine with 15-in. x 17-in. throat capacity. The only 12-in. capacity, 90° chipper in the industry, its SaverCut eliminates dead space behind the feed wheel, reduces



jams, and uses less fuel than machines with a 45° angle cut. A switch on infeed and discharge chute hinge prevents machine from operating when hinge is open.

For more information contact Ariens at 800/678-5443 / circle no. 252

Clean with power

Landa Water Cleaning Systems introduces a line of economy, natural gas-heated, hot-water pressure ENG washers that range from 2.8 to 10.6 GPM in water volume and 1,000 to 3,000 PSI in pressure. Features include an enclosed



cabinet, the ability to support up to four remote washing stations, the ability to be fitted with LP gas, and 50 ft. of high-pressure hose rated for up to 5,800 PSI.

For more information contact Landa at 800/547-8672 / circle no. 253

Better brush chipper

Vermeer Mfg. Co.'s BC625A brush chipper can handle brush and debris up to six inches in diameter. It features a four-sided bed knife and a



thick cutter disc for more cutting inertia, and an improved variable speed hydraulic system that delivers 20% more torque to the feed roller. Three engine options are available, including a 20-hp Honda, a 25-hp Kohler Command, and a 23.5-hp water-cooled Perkins diesel.

For more information contact Vermeer Mfg. Co. at 888/837-6337 or www.vermeermfg.com / circle no. 254

No more mower downtime

With its stay-sharp Tungsten carbide-coated blades and maintenance-free Gravely XL spindles, the Gravely 260Z zero-turn mower is designed to reduce maintenance



downtime. Available with either a Kohler Com-

mand OHV 25-hp engine or Robin OHV 22-hp engine, the 260Z's larger fuel tank and air-flow deck allow for all-day mowing.

For more information contact Ariens at 800/678-5443 or www.ariens.com / circle no. 255

Grinding away

Morbark introduces the Wood Hog, a 90,000-lb. horizontal grinder with horsepower options from 860 to 990, a 49-in. diameter grinding drum mounted on a 8 1/2-in. shaft and an aggressive feed system that allows for product output of up to 400 yds. per hour. Standard features include auto feed system, wireless remote control, magnetic end pulley, hydraulic

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dual fold discharge conveyor and self-contained air compressor.

For more information contact Morbark at 800/233-6065 / circle no. 256

The answer to de-thatching

Growth Products' Control De-Thatcher is an organic inoculant concentrate containing microbes that produce enzymes which digest protein in thatch. Other enzymes break down organic matter into nutrients for other beneficial soil microbes.

For more information call 800/648-7626 or www.growthproducts.com / circle no. 257

Compact skid steer

Finn Corp.'s new Eagle 250 compact skid steer is a "hydraulic power plant" that helps labor



crews do more work faster, and with fewer personnel. A 25-hp Kohler engine generates a hydraulic flow rate of 13.4 gpm. Full power is delivered to wheels and tools at same time. Oil cooler is standard. Quick-change feature allows

attachment changes in less than one minute. Over 30 attachments are available, including trencher, tiller and box rake.

For more information contact Finn Corp. at 800/543-7166 or www.finncorp.com / circle no. 258

Know where you apply

Riverdale Chemical Co. introduces Razor SPI, a broad spectrum post-emergent herbicide with a blue dye spray pattern indicator to show applicators where the product has and hasn't been applied. Razor SPI contains glyphosate which controls a variety of herbaceous plants, including Canadian thistle, velvetgrass and knapweed.

For more information contact Riverdale at 800/345-3330 / circle no. 259

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1. My primary business at this location is: (fill in ONE only)

CONTRACTORS/SERVICE COMPANIES

- 02 255 Landscape Contractors (Installation & Maintenance)
- 03 260 Lawn Care Service Companies & Custom Chemical Applicators (ground & air)
- 04 285 Irrigation Contractors & Consultants
 - Other Contractors/Service Companies (please specify) _____

LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS CARE FACILITIES

- 05 290 Sports Complexes
- 06 295 Parks
- 07 305 Schools, Colleges & Universities
 - Other Grounds Care Facilities (specify) _____

SUPPLIERS AND CONSULTANTS

- 08 355 Extension Agents/Consultants for Horticulture
- 09 360 Sod Growers, Turf Seed Growers & Nurseries
- 10 365 Dealers, Distributors, Formulators & Brokers
- 11 370 Manufacturers
 - Other (please specify) _____

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (fill in ONE only)

- 12 10 **Executive/Administrator** - President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Director of Physical Plant
- 13 20 **Manager/Superintendent** - Arborist, Architect, Landscape/Grounds Manager, Superintendent, Foreman, Supervisor
- 14 30 **Government Official** - Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
- 15 40 **Specialist** - Forester, Consultant, Agronomist, Pilot, Instructor, Researcher, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
- 16 50 **Other Titled and Non-Titled Personnel** (please specify) _____

3. SERVICES PERFORMED (fill in ALL that apply)

- 17 A Mowing
- 18 B Turf Insect Control
- 19 C Tree Care
- 20 D Turf Aeration
- 21 E Irrigation Services
- 22 F Turf Fertilization
- 23 G Turf Disease Control
- 24 H Ornamental Care
- 25 I Landscape Design
- 26 J Turf Weed Control
- 27 K Paving, Deck & Patio Installation
- 28 L Pond/Lake Care
- 29 M Landscape Installation
- 30 N Snow Removal
- 31 O Other (please specify) _____

4a. Do you specify, purchase or influence the selection of landscape products?
 58 Yes 59 No

4b. If yes, indicate which products you buy or specify: (fill in ALL that apply)

- 32 1 Aerators
- 33 2 Blowers
- 34 3 Chain Saws
- 35 4 Chipper-Shredders
- 36 5 De-icers
- 37 6 Fertilizers
- 38 7 Fungicides
- 39 8 Herbicides
- 40 9 Insecticides
- 41 10 Line Trimmers
- 42 11 Mowers
- 43 12 Snow Removal Equipment
- 44 13 Sprayers
- 45 14 Spreaders
- 46 15 Sweepers
- 47 16 Tractors
- 48 17 Truck Trailers/Attachments
- 49 18 Trucks
- 50 19 Turfseed
- 51 20 Utility Vehicles

5. Do you have Internet access? 52 A Yes 53 B No

5A. If so, how often do you use it?

- 54 A Daily
- 55 B Weekly
- 56 C Monthly
- 57 D Occasionally

101	113	125	137	149	161	173	185	197	209	221	233	245	257	269	281	293	305
102	114	126	138	150	162	174	186	198	210	222	234	246	258	270	282	294	306
103	115	127	139	151	163	175	187	199	211	223	235	247	259	271	283	295	307
104	116	128	140	152	164	176	188	200	212	224	236	248	260	272	284	296	308
105	117	129	141	153	165	177	189	201	213	225	237	249	261	273	285	297	309
106	118	130	142	154	166	178	190	202	214	226	238	250	262	274	286	298	310
107	119	131	143	155	167	179	191	203	215	227	239	251	263	275	287	299	311
108	120	132	144	156	168	180	192	204	216	228	240	252	264	276	288	300	312
109	121	133	145	157	169	181	193	205	217	229	241	253	265	277	289	301	313
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