

# early spring leaf & bloom



## Today's Treatment

Susceptible varieties with sufficient leaf or bloom surface will have been treated today to mitigate fungus diseases like Brown Rot, Blossom Blight, and Photinia Leaf Spot (pictured below). Leaf and bloom fungus is directly related to the amount of rainfall during the infection period. **The fungicides we have chosen are "sticky", and will adhere even to damp foliage, and are rain-fast when dry.** This application will help protect leaves and flowers from infection for 14-28 days. **If there was active infection present today, the treatment will halt further spread, though some damage may have already occurred. As more new leaf tissue emerges, and the fungicide bio-degrades, foliage will become susceptible to infection.** We will make every effort to apply any pre-ordered future applications in a timely manner, weather permitting. If frequent rain or conducive conditions prevail, secondary infection may occur.



*Cherry Bark Tortrix dieback*



*Photinia Leaf Spot Fungus*



*Brown Rot Blossom Blight*

## Cherry Bark Tortrix

The Cherry Bark Tortrix (CBT for short) moth has infested hundreds of ornamental and fruiting cherry trees in this area. Many trees have died.

You may have one of the susceptible cherry varieties in your landscape, and noticed some branch dieback or rapid whole tree decline. The signs of infestation are subtle but relatively easy to detect. Small, orange colored frass tubes (elongated clumps of saw dust-like material) and frass accumulations in the cracks and crevices of the tree trunk are indicative of an infestation. The larval stage of the moth tunnels under the bark, compromising the trees ability to move water and nutrients from roots to foliage. If left untreated, the tree will die. The CBT moth seems to favor trees with rough burls, graft points and deep fissures in the bark to lay its eggs, including around the root crown, close to the ground.

Research by WSU shows that CBT will also infest apple, plum, hawthorn and other rosaceous plants in our area, but ornamental and fruiting cherry seem to be most susceptible at this time, especially the popular Fuji cherry varieties.

Treatment should be applied in September/October, when the adult moth is emerging. Early detection and treatment will save trees! If you have susceptible trees that aren't being treated, or you aren't sure, please call our office for more information.

## Smart, Safe Pest Management

We, like you, are concerned about accidental pesticide exposure issues. Our goal is always to minimize the risk while maximizing the benefit. Pest control products are occasionally necessary to manage damaging insects, but proper use will not present any unreasonable risk to humans, pets, wildlife or the environment. For instance, we make sure that no insecticides are used where bees are foraging during bloom season. Just like you do with your household cleaning products and medicines, we always take steps to minimize exposure to vulnerable targets.

Most of the control products we use are in the same class as Lysol Disinfectant Spray- bearing a "caution" label. Scientists use the LD50 standard when testing product safety. The LD50 demonstrates how much exposure or consumption it takes to reach a 50% chance of a fatal event. The LD50 for permethrin, a common insecticide, consumed by a medium size bird (i.e. mallard duck) is 11,275 mg/kg of body weight. For practical purposes, at the rates employed in landscapes, this translates to 12.5 gallons of spray mix consumed in a single event! Wildlife face many more serious issues every day than the risk presented by responsible pesticide use.