Wolberts Plant Essentials Inc.
Healthy Landscapes
Pest Free Homes

Spring
leaf & Blossom protection

YARDGUARD PLANT HEALTHCARE

Today's Treatment

Susceptible tree and plant varieties with enough leaf or blossom surface showing will have been treated today to mitigate fungus diseases like Brown Rot, Blossom Blight, and Photinia Leaf Spot (pictured below). Leaf and blossom fungus are directly related to air temperatures and 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 of disease, though some damage may have already occurred. As new leaf tissue emerges, and the fungicide bio-degrades, foliage will again become susceptible to infection. We will make every effort to apply your pre-ordered program applications in a timely manner, as weather permits. 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. Your plant healthcare technician knows what to look for and will alert you to signs of CBT. We apply treatments in September/October, when all the moths are in the larval stage. 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.

Apple maggot

If you had the displeasure of discovering little worm trails in your apples or pears last year, say hello to apple maggot. Adult flies lay their eggs under the skin of the fruit from June through August. Now is a good time to plan for preventive treatments applied to your fruit trees. We recommend three treatments starting in June with the last treatment in August. We can't promise one hundred percent control but most years we can make your harvest usable. Call now and leave the timing to us when summer rolls around. Coddling moth worms are another difficult pest plaguing tree fruit for which we currently do not offer a program; but current research has offered some ideas that we will be testing this spring.

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