Anthracnose
FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care





What It Is:

Anthracnose is fungal disease which can affect many species of trees including, but not limited to Oak, Maple, Ash, Walnut, Hickory, Birch, Linden, and many fruit trees. Different fungal species target their specific hosts, thriving in cool, wet spring weather.

Symptoms:

As fungal spore germinate in the dampness of spring, and fungal cells grow within newly expanding shoots and leaves, lesions begin to appear as water-soaked spots. The damage can be confused with frost damage at first, due to the time of year at which symptoms begin to manifest, and due to the superficial appearance of the symptoms.

Anthracnose causes dark spots, blights, premature leaf drop, twig dieback, small circular lesions on leaves along veins, and cankers on leaves, branches, and fruit.

Repeated severe defoliation can increase weakness and vulnerability in the tree, making them vulnerable to additional pests and diseases.

Prevention/ Treatment:

- Rake and dispose of old leaves to prevent re-infection via fungal spores – do not burn the leaves, as this will also release fungal spores.
- Pruning infected branches
- A fungicidal spray in early spring before bud break, followed by another 1-2 treatments may help prevent infection. This process will likely need to be repeated for several years for maximum efficacy. Having said this, successful treatment is often difficult and there is no guarantee of success.
- Promoting tree health by fertilizing and watering helps increase a tree's vigor, which will help it withstand infection.

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Contact:

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