



BRANCHES TREE CARE LTD.

Box 896

BON ACCORD, AB

TOA OKO

780-721-9161

branchestrecare@gmail.com

APPLE FIRE BLIGHT (ERIWINIA AMYLOVORA)

APPLE FIRE BLIGHT IS A BACTERIAL DISEASE TRANSMITTED BY INSECTS, BEES, RAIN, DEW, WIND AND BIRDS IN THE SPRING AFFECTING APPLE, COTONEASTER AND MOUNTAIN ASH TREES. EARLY SIGNS OF THIS DISEASE MAY BE ALL OR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: INFECTED FLOWERS THAT HAVE A BROWNISH, SHRIVELED APPEARANCE, SHRIVELED LEAVES THAT TURN BROWN, ORANGE, RED OR DARK PURPLISH. LEAVES AFFECTED ARE NEW GROWTH, TYPICALLY OF THAT SEASON, AND FIRST APPEARS ON THE OUTER 8 INCHES OF THE SHOOT. THE LEAVES TURN COLOR OR BROWN AND STAY SOFT UNTIL FULLY DESSICATED (DRIED OUT) AND DO NOT FALL OFF. FURTHER INFECTION WILL ALSO CAUSE REDDISH WATER SOAKED LESIONS ON THE BARK. ON WARM DAYS THESE LESIONS OOZE REDISH BROWN LIQUID. FIRE BLIGHT SYMPTOMS START TO APPEAR MID JUNE. FIRE BLIGHT KILLS BLOSSOMS, SHOOTS, LIMBS AND EVENTUALLY THE ENTIRE TREE. IT SPREADS RAPIDLY IN HIGH MOISTURE WEATHER AND THE BACTERIA OVER WINTER IN THE INFECTED BARK.

AFFECTED AREAS ON THE TREE NEED TO BE TRIMMED OFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY BEFORE THE DORMANCY PERIOD STARTS. TRIMMING CUTS MUST BE MADE TO ANOTHER BRANCH UNION OR COMPLETE REMOVAL OF THAT BRANCH. AFTER EVERY CUT THE TOOL USED MUST BE STERILIZED, UNLESS THE PRUNING CUTS ARE MADE IN DORMANCY PHASE BECAUSE THE BACTERIA IS NOT ACTIVE IN THE WINTER.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT PRUNING AND STERILIZING AT FIRST SIGNS SAVES THE TREE. ONCE A TREE CONTRACTS FIRE BLIGHT IT USUALLY REAPPEARS YEAR AFTER YEAR. ALSO, FIRE BLIGHT IS SPREAD BY FACTORS NOT CONTROLLABLE BY HUMANS SO REINFECTION IS EASY REGARDLESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO GET RID OF IT.

WHAT YOU CAN DO? PRUNE OUT AFFECTED AREAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, DISINFECT AFTER EVERY CUT AND MAKE PROPER CUTS IN PROPER LOCATIONS. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO DEEP ROOT FERTILIZE THE TREE EVERY SPRING TO HELP IT STAY STRONG, A HEALTHY IMMUNE SYSTEM DOES HELP THE TREE AND EXTEND IT'S LIFE. UNFORTUNATELY MOST OF THE PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO THE TREE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE SOLD IN CANADA. COPPER SULFATE IS A COMMON FUNGICIDE BUT I HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN FINDING IT IN STORES THIS YEAR. FUNGICIDES HAVE TO APPLIED TO THE TREE EVERY 10 DAYS FROM MID APRIL TO BEGINNING OF JULY TO PREVENT INFECTION.

