



# FIRE BLIGHT



Fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) is a common bacterial disease that affects pome fruit trees such as apples, pears, Asian pears, and close relatives like quinces and hawthorns. Infection can be spread from the blossoms and branch tips to the rest of the tree and appears as a black discoloration in the bark. Dead leaves will remain on the tree and the shoot tips will curl downward. If left unchecked, fire blight can continue to spread to major limbs and the trunk before killing the tree entirely.

Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
Jan - Feb	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During pruning season, prune pome fruit trees to open up trees to sunlight and air circulation. Keep an eye out for any dead, disease or damaged limbs. If possible, prune when weather is dry to decrease spread of infection through moisture and rainwater.</li> <li>2. While pruning, be on the lookout specifically for any diseased wood that may appear singed or burned. Prune out 8-12" below the site of infection or further if brown discoloration appears on cut wood. Remember to sanitize tools between each cut when pruning out disease and from tree to tree for general pruning to avoid spreading diseases.</li> <li>3. Remove infected wood as far away from the site as possible, ideally burning it. If burning is not an option, dispose of it offsite.</li> </ol>	
Mar - May	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply biofungicides such as <a href="#">Serenade</a> during blossom season through petal drop at 7-day intervals. Always read label instructions for application information and mixing compatibilities.</li> <li>2. Apply holistic sprays such as <a href="#">compost tea</a>, <a href="#">Effective Microbes</a>, and/or <a href="#">neem oil</a> for tree immunity every two weeks from late March to early May</li> <li>3. During weekly orchard walk throughs, be on the lookout for signs of infection. As weather warms between 75 - 85 degrees and is accompanied by rain and humid weather, infection is likely to spread. <a href="#">Regalia</a> can be applied pre-bloom, early bloom, full bloom or post bloom in 3 rounds every 7-10 days before the sign of disease or at first sign of infection. Resistance will take 1-2 days to build. Always read label instructions for application information and mixing compatibility.</li> </ol>	



Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
Jun	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider the release of <a href="#">beneficial insects</a> such as Trichogramma Wasp and Lacewings to control sucking insects such as aphids and leafhoppers that will transfer bacteria between tree tissues.</li> <li>2. Emergency prune out all infected wood to prevent spread, at least 8-12" below any signs of the disease. Infected trees will have canker on tree bark that look dead or decayed, weeping wounds, burnt-looking wood and leaves, and/or curled branch tips also known as a "shepherd's crook."</li> </ol>	
Jul - Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue emergency pruning and remove any signs of infected branches and/or fruit. Fruit may be brown or black in color and shriveled while remaining on the tree.</li> </ul>	

**Resources Used:**

[Monthly Orchard Task List](#) — [Preventing and Treating Fire Blight](#) — [Biofungicides for Orchards: Serenade and Regalia Fireblight Management Options \(University of California Statewide IPM\)](#)