

(revision date:4/11/2018)

## ***Pear: European canker (Nectria canker)***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Nectria or European canker is a fungal disease affecting the twigs and branches of pear and apple. Young cankers occur at leaf nodes on twigs and are sunken, dark, and water-soaked in appearance. Twigs are often girdled and die back above the infected site. Older cankers are either irregularly elongate and covered with dead bark, or are surrounded by roughened, irregular, cracked bark in concentric rings, indicating the infection's yearly advance. In spring or fall of the first season following infection, cankers produce white fungal fruiting bodies. Round, red fruiting bodies are produced on older cankers during subsequent winters and springs. The fungus infects during rainy weather in the fall, attacking through leaf scars and wounds. An eye rot may occur on the flower end of fruit, causing brown, depressed spots with lighter centers on the fruit surface.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

~ Prune out and destroy cankered tissues during dry weather in early summer.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

Apply before fall rains and during early leaf fall. Homeowners should not make foliar applications to trees over 10 ft tall. Consult a commercial pesticide applicator for treatment of trees and shrubs over 10 ft. tall.

**Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.**

- ~ Bonide Copper Fungicide Spray or Dust RTU [Organic]
  - active ingredient: basic copper sulfate
  - EPA reg no: 4-58
- ~ Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide Conc/Organic Gardening
  - active ingredient: copper octanoate
  - EPA reg no: 67702-2-4
- ~ Soap-Shield Flowable Liquid Copper Fungicide [Organic]
  - active ingredient: copper octanoate
  - EPA reg no: 67702-2-56872
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

*Pear: European canker (Nectria canker)*

*Images*



~ Caption: European canker  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



~ Caption: European closed canker on pear  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



~ Caption: Nectria canker fruiting bodies  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



~ Caption: Newly-developed European canker  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther