HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

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Cooperative Extension
Nassau County

Nassau County
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Brown Rot of Stone Fruit

Brown rot, caused by the fungus *Monilinia fruticola,* is one of the most destructive diseases of peach, plum, nectarine, apricot and cherry trees on Long Island. Brown rot reduces yields by attacking blossoms and twigs and rotting fruits on and off the tree.

Brown Rot usually appears as a circular brown spot on maturing fruit. The spots usually originate in wounds caused by insects, mainly plum curculio and oriental fruit moth. During warm and humid weather, the rot develops rapidly through the fruit. It remains circular, smooth and unsunken, and light brown in color. The infected fruit may drop to the ground or remain on the tree, becoming shriveled.

If the mummies are allowed to stay on the tree or the ground until spring, the fruiting bodies on them will serve as a source of inoculum to infect the new fruit. Sanitary measures are very important in controlling the brown rot fungus.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls. As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

** A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g.* ***insect****icide,* ***fung****icide,* ***herb****icide, etc.*

Cultural Management

1. Remove and discard all mummied fruits.
2. Cut out twigs showing gum.
3. Cultivate soil to destroy fungus fruiting bodies just before bloom. Distributing the soil causes the fruiting bodies to shrivel.
4. Trees should be pruned to allow circulation of air and rapid drying of both fruit and soil during rainy periods.
5. Thinning fruit to prevent them from touching each other also reduces the chances of brown rot infection.

Sanitation alone will not completely control the brown rot fungus, but the addition of proper fungicide will.

Chemical Management

Chemical pesticides are available. If you choose to use chemical pesticides, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

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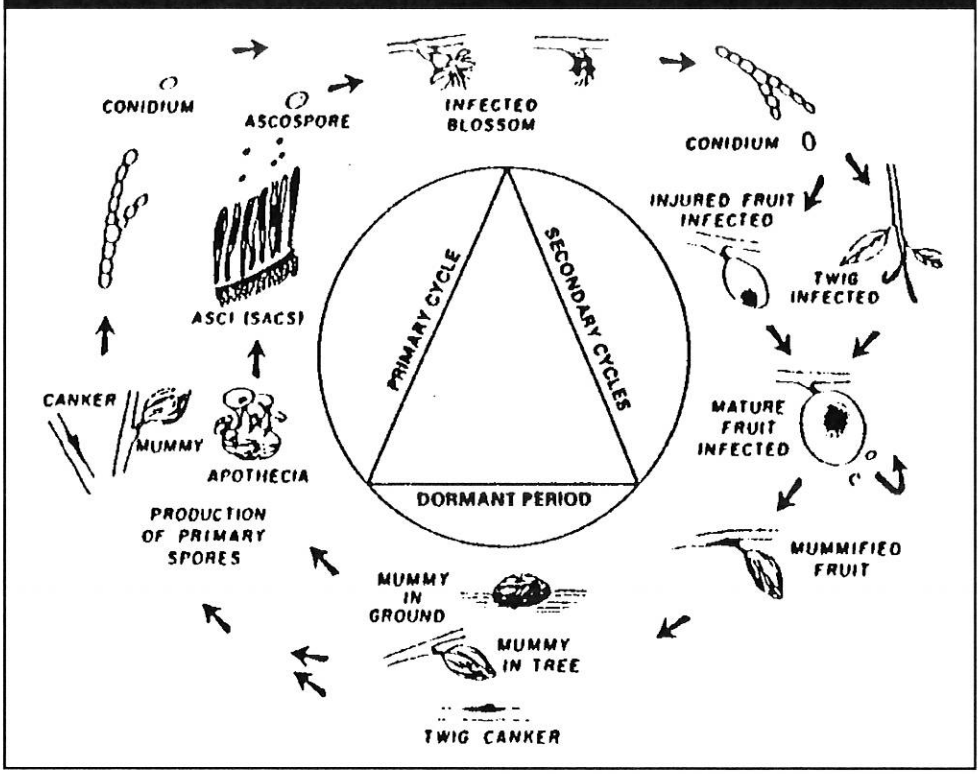
TREE-FRUIT SPRAY SCHEDULES

Time to Spray	Peaches/Apricots/ Nectarines	Cherries
$\frac{1}{12}$ Dormant	Oil	Oil
$\frac{1}{12}$ Half-inch Green	—	—
$\frac{1}{12}$ Tight cluster	—	—
$\frac{1}{12}$ Pink or white bud	Fungicide	Fungicide
$\frac{1}{12}$ Bloom *(3)*	Fungicide	Fungicide
$\frac{1}{12}$ Petal fall	Fungicide	Fungicide
$\frac{1}{12}$ Pre-Harvest *(2)*	Fungicide	Fungicide

(2) Treat 3-4 weeks prior to harvest. The critical times to manage brown rot are the first 3 weeks after petal fall and the last 3 weeks before harvest.

(3) To avoid killing bees, DO NOT APPLY INSECTICIDES DURING BLOOM and control weeds that may attract bees such as dandelions throughout the season.

DISEASE CYCLE OF BROWN ROT



WHENEVER YOU USE A PESTICIDE, ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

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