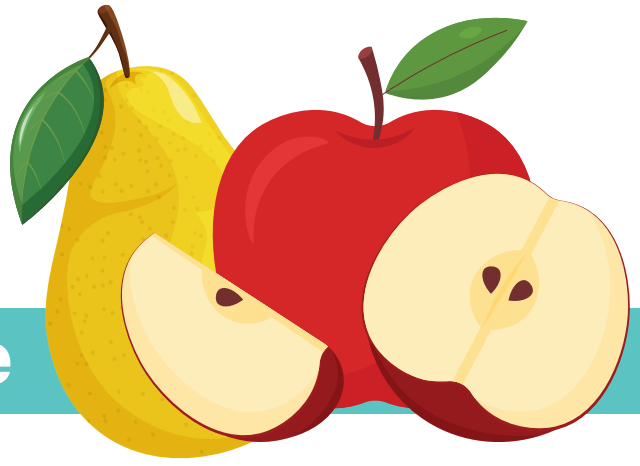


ZAMZOWS

Backyard Berry & Fruit Fest



Basic Apple & Pear Care

Fire Blight

Fire Blight is a bacterial disease that can infect apple, pear, hawthorn, and roses. Infection occurs in the spring when temperatures are between 70 to 80 degrees and high humidity. Infection will even occur on flowering (non-fruit bearing) apple and pear trees. This disease is often a problem during warm, rainy springs.

This disease presents as dead leaves on the tree that do not fall off and appear to be burnt, especially on pear trees. The end of the limb with the disease may form a hook-like appearance.

Once a tree is infected, the tree will always have fire blight. However, since the disease is dependent on certain temperature and humidity levels, trees do not show the disease every year. The weather and trees should be monitored every spring to prevent the disease from spreading further.

- Start looking at the flowers and weak new growth.
- Diseased limbs must be cut out, follow these sanitary procedures.
 - ¼ cup bleach in 1 gallon of water, tool dip.
 - Use bare hands, or rubber gloves. Cloth gloves can't be sanitized.
 - Make pruning cut 12 inches below last dead leaves.
 - Dip pruners into sanitizing solution after every cut.
- Destroy or remove pruned limbs from property.
- After pruning, you must follow up with spraying liquid copper, Revitalize, or fire blight spray.
- Reapply as needed if it rains. Repeat spraying until weather dries.
- Clean and oil tools when done to prevent corrosion.
- Prevent using chemical fertilizers that "force" tender growth. Zamzows Thrive and Dr. JimZ Chicken Soup for the Soil, are the best product for fruit trees, as it does not force growth.