

Botryosphaeria Canker

WHAT:

Botryosphaeria species are known causal agents for dieback and cankering in most species of tree and shrub. Fungi in the *Botryosphaeria* genus are typically opportunistic pathogens; they attack stressed trees due to both biotic (biological) and abiotic (environmental) stress. Cankering can become severe, extensively cutting off tissue in the cambium layer that transports water and nutrient molecules. Fungi can colonize some fruits, as well as woody tissue.

WHERE:

Botryosphaeria is found in all geographical and climatic areas of the world. Due to this fungi's diversity, hundreds of plant genera, including angiosperms and conifers, are susceptible to cankering and dieback. This includes but is not limited to:

apple, crabapple, arborvitae, cypress, ash, beech, birch, cherry, dogwood, elm, fig, fir, holly, honey locust, juniper, linden, alder, magnolia, bottle, sweet gum, sycamore, pine, oak, maple, poplar, redbud, rhododendron, azalea, spruce, tulip, willow and more.

SYMPTOMS:

Symptoms commonly seen on trees and shrubs diagnosed with *Botryosphaeria* are wilting or dieback of branches. In certain branches, buds may fail to open in the spring. Cankers also can be observed on large branches and trunks. Cankers may appear dark and sunken, surrounded by callused wood. When the bark over a cankered area is removed, the tissue beneath is brown to redish-brown. On trees, gummosis (gummy exudate), blisters and/or black fungal spore-producing structures can be seen.

HOW:

This disease is caused by a wood-infecting fungi that causes death of upper sections of the trunk or branches and enters natural openings in the bark or pruning cuts. It can be dormant in the winter on wood, and spores are spread by wind and rain in late winter early spring as the fungus resumes activity. Infection more severe in stressed trees.

Consult with one of our Urban Forestry Experts to get prescribed an appropriate and effective plan today.



Gummosis symptom on Brachychiton spp.



Gummosis symptom on peach.



Botryosphaeria fruiting bodies on honeylocust branch