



# Problem: Verticillium Wilt

## *The Problem.....*

## *and the Solution*

### *Some Verticillium*

#### *Susceptible Plants:*

- Maples
- Cherries
- Magnolia
- Redbud
- Ash
- Elm
- Heather
- Rose
- Lilac
- Sumac
- Fuchsia
- Viburnum
- Peony
- Currants
- Raspberry
- Strawberry
- Blackberry
- Rhubarb

#### **Diagnosis**

A plant in your yard is dying. It is late summer, and, one limb at a time, the leaves shrivel and drop off. You cut a limb that has died from the poor tree and cut into it. You see black or brown streaking in the wood. This plant may be dying from a soil borne disease called *Verticillium Wilt*.

Many plants are susceptible to this disease. Unfortunately, if your soil is contaminated with it, there is no way to completely get rid of it.

If you suspect that the soil in a planting bed is infected with verticillium wilt, clean and sterilize all tools used in that bed before using them in uninfected beds.

If you have lost a plant and suspect Verticillium Wilt, the safest option is to replace the plant with one that is resistant to the disease.

#### **Plants Resistant to Verticillium Wilt**

- All conifers– Needled Evergreens, dwarf to giant estate trees
- Arctostaphylos– Manzanitas and kin-nikinnik—Native broadleaf evergreen shrubs

- Betula species– Birches
- Buxus– Boxwoods
- Carpinus species– Deciduous trees & shrubs
- Ceanothus– Evergreen and deciduous shrubs
- Cercidiphyllum japonicum– Katsura
- Cornus species– Dogwoods
- Fagus species–Beeches
- Ficus caris–Edible Fig
- Ginkgo biloba–Maidenhair tree
- Ilex species– Hollies– evergreen and deciduous shrubs
- Juglans species– Walnuts
- Malus species– Fruiting & Flowering Apples
- Pyracantha species– Firethorn
- Pyrus species– Fruiting & Flowering Pears
- Quercus species– Oaks
- Salix species– Willows
- Grasses, Sedges, Daffodils, Lilies, Ferns

**Misdiagnosis!** Another, fairly common disease that can look like *Verticillium* is *Pseudomonas*, or Bacterial Canker. It isn't easy to tell them apart. A few clues: *Pseudomonas* often appears in the spring rather than late summer. If you look carefully at the dying limb, you

may find a dark sunken area (a canker) low on the branch. The bark on the dying limb will peel off brownish and water soaked, but there will not be the dark streaking of *Verticillium*. Fall & spring sprays of copper may help prevent *Pseudomonas* infections.