

BUGS AND BLIGHTS

Sharon J. Collman

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WATCH FOR.....

Spring Showers Bring Brown Rot Flowers caused by a fungus which invades the soft tissue of blossoms of most of the cherry, plum, flowering quince flowering almond and occasionally apple. Weeping cherries are especially susceptible. Sometimes, an infected blossom may fall on rosaceous plant below and the fungus will move from the flower to into that. <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/garden/bugsandblights/bugblight0408.htm>



Brown rot on ornamental plum (source: http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/plant_images/PlumBrownRot.jpg)

Three Kinds of Spring Tent caterpillars are silver-spotted tiger moth on conifers (<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1718/eb1718.html>) that are ending their feeding period and require no control; western tent caterpillar a common pest of deciduous trees such as alder and cherry and many others) will have hatched when apples bloom (http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/pest/tent_caterpillar.htm);



and apple ermine moth (<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1526/eb1526.html>) which forms numerous small fist-sized tents hidden among dead leaves on apples.

Silver spotted tiger moth,

western tent caterpillar

Apple ermine moth

Resources for the nursery and landscape professional

The professional doesn't always have to know all; they just need to know where all is located.

Hortsense <http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense> is a WSU website developed by WSU's Carrie Foss, Art Antonelli and Ralph Byther and others at the WSU – Puyallup Research and Extension Center. This is ideal for the homeowner who just wants to know what to do without a lot of reading. The format is comprised of a photo, which can be enlarged, a paragraph of information about the insect or disease or weed, non chemical IPM actions to take and if needed pesticides are listed by brand name to make it easier to find them by the homeowner or nursery. Click on the active ingredient button to display the ingredients in the products listed. There is also a companion, **Pestsense**, for household, structural, health and nuisance pests. <http://pep.wsu.edu/pestsense/>

Enter **Hortsense**: then select the plant group or topic you want (common insects, ornamentals, tree fruits, etc.). From a list of insects or diseases or cultural problems, select a likely choice and confirm with the homeowner that this is indeed their problem. These can be printed off and sent home with the client.

Sharon J. Collman is the Extension Educator for commercial and community horticulture for WSU Snohomish County Extension. Her office is located in McCollum Park, just east of I-5 at the 128 St. exit. Here's a career summary:

- 1968 BA from Central Washington University
- 1972 M.S. from the University of Washington where she focused on the insect pests of ornamental plants in the Arboretum.
- 1973 volunteered for WSU King County Extension, helping with the first Master Gardener class and setting up the operational procedures.
- 1974 became the first female Agriculture Extension Agent in Washington and worked with WSNLA and other professional organizations, homeowners and WSU Master Gardeners
- 1986 moved to WSU Snohomish County in 1986, where her responsibilities included Master Gardeners, nursery and landscape professionals, Christmas tree growers and agricultural crops.
- 1989 to 1993 served as the first Liaison from WSU to EPA Region 10 and worked to increase communication on environmental issues to, and shared the scientific research and information from, the landgrant universities in WA, OR, ID and AK. While there she also served as chair of the Pollution Prevention through Agricultural Chemical Management and the Urban Pesticide Education Strategy Team <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/upest/> For both programs grant money was distributed to start up projects in the region and new publications were developed.
- 1993, graduate school where her PhD research focused on adult root weevils in nurseries, landscapes, public gardens and remnant native woodlands.
- 2002 regional IPM Coordinator as a contractor with EPA where she worked with the four states to encourage adoption of IPM based on good science.
- 2002 returned to the water quality liaison to EPA position, now with the University of Idaho.
- 2005 she returned to become the interim horticulture educator for WSU Extension for Snohomish County with responsibility for nursery/greenhouse and landscape professionals and Master Gardeners.

The people and the work along the way have made this a most interesting career. Each change provided opportunities to make significant strides in research and education: such as nurturing of an infant Master Gardener Program in its formative years; developing a diagnostic lab in King County; establishing solid relationships with WSNLA and other professional organizations; a 10 year column Bugs and Blights published in B&B which won a national award for excellence in 1986; and the development of the WSU Growing Groceries program to mentor new community gardens and teach gardening to those needing to grow food for their families and food banks. Next, I hope to focus more fully on IPM resources for the green industry and form a Green Industry Network. There have been pleasant surprises of a number of state and national awards along the way, reinforcing the value of Extension's role in the community. These included Nurseryman of the Year and Honorary Lifetime Member (WSNLA 1985), Educator of the Year (WSNLA, 2008) and outstanding Extension urban horticulture program in the US (1986) and others. It is a delight to be back writing about my favorite Bugs and Blights for one of my favorite groups of people.

Bugs and Blights of Tree Fruits in May – Addendum

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Peach, apricot and plum dieback

A number of specimens of these hosts have been coming into the WSU Snohomish County Extension Office with branches that look like they've been scorched. New leaves are wilting and in some cases buds fail to open. The customer complains that this is happening on well established trees. It seems to mostly occur on plums, 'Frost' peach, apricots, other the stone fruits. The bark or buds may look "glazed" and shiny, or the bark of stems may be covered with purplish spots. In some cases, the twig looks fine but the buds are not opening. Using a thumbnail to scrap at the bark may reveal healthy green cambium wood beneath recent purplish spots, but moving downward on the twig, the tissue is brown beneath the bark.

The disease is caused by the fungus *Wilsonomyces carpophilus* (formerly *Coryneum beyerinckii*). Technically it should now be called *Wilsonomyces* blight but old habits change slowly. Infections occur in or near buds during the winter. Spores are actively produced for 3 years, and are spread by splashing raindrops or overhead irrigation.

More details on controls at <http://ipmnet.org/plant-disease/disease.cfm?RecordID=797>

Spots will also occur on leaves and on fruit where they become rather ugly, sunken, fruit lesions with a bull's eye appearance. On leaves, the plant will form an abscission layer of cells and shed the infected tissue. (Devilishly clever these plants!) It also means infective tissue may winter over on the ground unless mulched.

<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/>

Bacterial Pseudomonas