



ARBORSCAPES

Tree Management • Plant Health Care
Construction Preservation

Fire Blight

Fire blight is easily one of the most destructive diseases that can afflict apple and pear trees. Fire blight is caused by a bacterium that oozes to the surface of the infected area and spreads through insects and rain.

After the initial infection occurs, blossoms will usually wilt and die in about one to two weeks, causing more of the bacteria to ooze from them and spread to other parts of the tree. Insect feeding and other minor damage to the tree creates wounds that the bacteria can spread to, further worsening the infection.



Signs of Fire Blight on a Bradford Pear Tree.

Treatment

Unchecked, fire blight has the potential to spread throughout a tree relatively quickly. Pruning of blighted limbs as well as bacterial sprays can help stop the spread of infectious bacteria and save the tree.