



ARBORSCAPES

Tree Management • Plant Health Care
Construction Preservation

Rust

Rust diseases are caused by fungi that commonly invade apple, pear, hawthorn, and other ornamental plants. Because Rust is a fungus and cannot produce its own food, it survives by invading a host plant and taking its nutrition. Unfortunately, this behavior often results in tissue damage to the host plant, leaf curl, defoliation, and occasionally death.

Rust diseases typically attack new growth on plants on cool, moist days in early spring when plants are beginning to leaf out. Because the fungus favors these conditions, heavy infections are to be expected during cool, moist springs. Alternatively warm, dry conditions will reduce the extent of an infection.



Treatment

Treatment for rust is best done as a preventative. Susceptible ornamental trees should be protected with a foliar spray of fungicides, the amount varying depending on how much rainfall there is during the season. Pruning is also a great preventative that improves air circulation, creating less favorable conditions for the rust fungi.