



**Q: My grapes are turning black, shriveling and drying up like raisins. What's causing this?**

A: It sounds like black rot, a plant disease caused by the fungus *Guignardia bidwelli*, the most destructive disease that attacks grapes. The fungus spends the winter in infected dormant canes, tendrils on the support wires, and mummified fruit. In warm, moist spring weather, spores infect new shoots, leaves, tendrils, and eventually the developing fruit. The fruit is affected in all stages of development, but most severely when it is one-half to two-thirds grown.

To control this disease, destroy all infected fruit and prune out infected canes and tendrils. Once the fruit has begun to shrivel, fungicide sprays are ineffective. Next year, the plants can be sprayed with products containing myclobutanil, maneb, or thiophanate-methyl. Apply early in the growing season to keep the spread of the disease to a minimum. Always apply any pesticide according to label directions.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [fhgc@ceunh.unh.edu](mailto:fhgc@ceunh.unh.edu)