



Diagnosing Problems with Home Fruit Crops

- What's the type of fruit and variety. Age of tree or planting? Detailed description of the problem?
- When did you first notice the problem and how has it progressed?
- Are nearby plants of the same type affected? Is the damage widespread, or confined to a few fruits or branches?
- Can you see evidence of mechanical damage to the plant or its root system? (lawn mower, automobile or heavy equipment damage, storm damage, human damage?) Has the soil around or nearby the tree (plants) been disturbed by digging?
- Have you pruned the tree (bramble patch)? (Make sure the questioner understands how to prune the crop properly.)
- Did you use any pesticides on the problem crop? Materials used (list active ingredients, if known). Rate of application and date applied.
- Describe the planting site: soil type, topsoil depth, drainage, slope, exposure. Full sun, partial shade, full shade? If partially shaded, what time of day does tree or bushes receive full sun?
- Was the soil tested recently? Results? Do you know the pH of the soil? Have you applied limestone or wood ashes recently? If so, what was the rate of application? What kind of limestone did you use?
- Did you fertilize plants recently? If so, specify fertilizer grade and rate of application. How and when was the fertilizer applied?
- If you used manure, what kind? Was it applied fresh, partially rotted, fully-decomposed, composted?
- Did you use foliar fertilizers? If so, which ones, at what dilution? Were foliar feeds mixed with surfactants or insecticides?
- Did you recently apply herbicides in the vicinity of the problem plant(s)?

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