

# PREVENT *Invasives* in the CARIBBEAN



## Fireblight



Fireblight is a devastating, contagious disease caused by the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*. It belongs to the subfamily *Maloideae*, which is a member of the *Rosaceae*.



Fireblight affects the branches, blossoms, fruits, leaves, shoots and roots of almond, apricot, cherry, crabapple, loquat, plum and rose trees. The base of the bark becomes opaque, dry, and sunken. Cracks begin to develop at the edge of the area and branches start dying.



The disease can be spread to healthy plants by pruning tools, rain, and wind.

Infected branches should be pruned out 8 inches below the damaged area. Shears should be washed and oiled after pruning to reduce the spread of the pathogen. Spray plants with a fungicide containing basic copper sulfate (Kocide) to reduce infection.



Do not prune when plants are wet.

Pruning tools should be dipped in 70 % isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) between each cut or a 10 % bleach solution can be used, ( 1 part bleach to 9 parts water solution)



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