

Black Knot Disease

The Town of Lamont has recognized that some trees in town appear to be infected with Black Knot.

What is Black Knot?

Black Knot is recognized by clumpy, tar-like, black masses of abnormal growths on the branches of trees.

It is a fungal condition that infects only Prunus species of plants such as Mayday, Cherry and Plum trees. These trees are commonly found in yards, boulevards and parks.

This disease deforms tree branches and reduces their growth. Infection spreads rapidly, and ultimately leads to the eventual death of the plant.

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TOWN OF LAMONT

BLACK KNOT

How to Control Black Knot

Black Knot is highly infectious and spores can be carried by wind and rain, as well as wildlife.

Removing infected branches/trees is essential in helping to control the spread of Black Knot within your property, your neighbour's property and the community.

Management

Prune out all knot-bearing branches during the late fall/winter, or early spring when plants are dormant and knots are easy to see.

Remove infected branches to at least 15-20 centimeters (6-8 inches) below the knot.

As a precaution, cutting blades should be cleaned and disinfected after each pruning cut, if possible, especially if cuts have been made through obviously infected material. Sterilize with warm soapy water or a bleach solution (one part bleach to three parts water).

For knots on scaffold branches or trunks that can't be removed, cut away diseased tissue down to good wood and at least one centimeter (1/2 inch) beyond the edge of the knot

Failure to remove branches beyond the internal growth will result in re-growth of the fungus.



Disposal

DISEASED WOOD MUST BE DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY (burned, buried or removed from site and disposed of at the landfill). Diseased knots can produce and release spores for up to 4 months after removal.

Community Support & Awareness

We are working to decrease the effect of Black Knot throughout our community and want to spread awareness and information on the disease.

We appreciate the cooperation and support of commercial and residential property owners in controlling its spread.