It is not unusual for the Plant Health Clinic to receive tree branch samples that have fallen from the tree with all their leaves still green and healthy looking. Some tree species including larches, pines, poplars, willows, maples, walnut, ashes, bald cypress, and oaks “self-prune” during the growing season as a normal part of their physiology. An abscission layer forms at the base of the branch, shutting off the flow of water and sugar. This shedding and species, usually occurs in foliage or regard to more in trees generally is always recommended that tree stress be minimized through good cultural practices of a regular watering and fertilization regime.

Oak cladoptosis-abiotic

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Peach

Brown Rot is one of the most serious and pervasive fungal diseases of stone fruits. Brown rot attacks peaches, nectarines, apricots, cherries, and plums. Two species of Monilinia have been identified as causative agents in the United States; Monilinia fructicola, and M. laxa. Monilinia causes twig and blossom blight in early spring. Flowers turn brown and become a gummy mass. The infection travels down and can girdle the twig. Lens-shaped lesions can form on branches and the trunk. The infected tissue becomes covered with grayish-tan spore mass that provides secondary inoculum for additional infections. Brown rot appears on ripening to mature fruit as a rapidly growing, firm brown decay. Eventually the fruit is covered with the grayish-tan spore masses and eventually mummifies on the tree. Immature fruit that is infected remain on the tree and mummify also. Since Monilinia overwinters on mummified fruit, twigs, and cankers, sanitation is very important in the home orchard. However tedious a procedure, it is helpful to clean up as much infected tissue as possible. Homeowners may use Ortho Home Orchard Spray, or Bonide Fruit Tree Spray, or Hi-Yield Captan 50WP, or Bonide Captan 50WP, or Spectracide Immunox, or Bonide Fung-onil Multipurpose Fungicide Concentrate. Timing of the first sprays is of the utmost importance. Begin at pink bud in the spring and follow label for repeat sprays.

Tomato

The Plant Health Clinic has received numerous samples of tomato with severe leaf damage. Septoria Leaf Spot caused by *Septoria lycopersici* is one of the most damaging diseases of tomato foliage. Septoria is favored by warm temperatures and high humidity. Symptoms of Septoria generally appear on the lower leaves after the first fruit sets. Lesions are circular, about 2.6mm in diameter, with dark brown margins with tan to gray centers. A narrow yellow halo may often be observed around the lesion. Small black fruiting bodies of the fungus (pycnidia) may be observed in the centers of the lesions using a hand lens. Lesions may coalesce to form large blighted areas. Foliage turns yellow, then brown and dry. The plant has an almost burned appearance. There are no resistant cultivars available. Control measures include crop rotation with a non-host, control of weeds in tomato crops, removal of all crop debris, and avoidance of night watering and overhead irrigation. Protective fungicides at regular intervals during the growing season will be necessary for most growers. Quadris, Cabrio, Flint, Bravo, Mancozeb, and Gavel are labeled for Septoria leaf spot control. Homeowners may use Ortho Garden Disease Control, or Fertilome Liquid Fungicide, or Bonide Fung-onil Multipurpose Fungicide Concentrate, or Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide Concentrate, or Bonide Mancozeb Flowable w/Zinc, or Hi-Yield Maneb Garden Fungicide, or Green Light Tomato and Vegetable Spray. Organic Gardeners may try Bayer Advanced Natria Disease Control, or Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide Concentrate, or Kaligreen, or Bonide Remedy, or Bonide Copper Dust, or Hi-Yield Bordeaux, or AgraQuest Serenade.