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Common New England Tree Fruit Pests

Apple scab fungus causes velvety brown lesions on apple and crabapple leaves in the spring and summer. Fruit infections cause corky scars and splitting. Similar scab diseases attack pear and peach. Infected leaves drop and produce spores the next spring.

Brown rot fungus kills blossoms of peach, cherry, plum and other stone fruits in the spring. Summer infections cause soft watery rot on fruits, which eventually dry and produce spores the following spring.

Black knot fungus attacks plum and cherry trees. Symptoms first appear as an inconspicuous swelling on current year growth during the autumn following spring infections. The knots are green and soft the next spring, turning hard and black by the second autumn.

Codling moth larvae hatch in June and early July. They chew into the base of apples and pears, feeding in the seed cavity. On apples, damage first appears as small piles of "sawdust" in the flower end of fruit in July. Second generation larvae hatch in late August and September.

Plum curculio weevils lay eggs in the spring on apple, pear, peach, plum, and cherry once the fruit reach pea size. Larval feeding causes fruit to drop. Damaged fruit that persist have deformities and surface scars, often "D shaped."

Various species of **trunk borer** insects kill many fruit trees in New England. Adults lay eggs on the lower trunk in June through September. Larvae tunnel into the trunk, which causes structural damage and introduces wood rot fungi. Young, unsprayed trees are especially vulnerable. Close-fitting trunk guards increase damage as borers prefer to lay eggs under the shelter they provide.