



Public Works Department Urban Forestry Branch



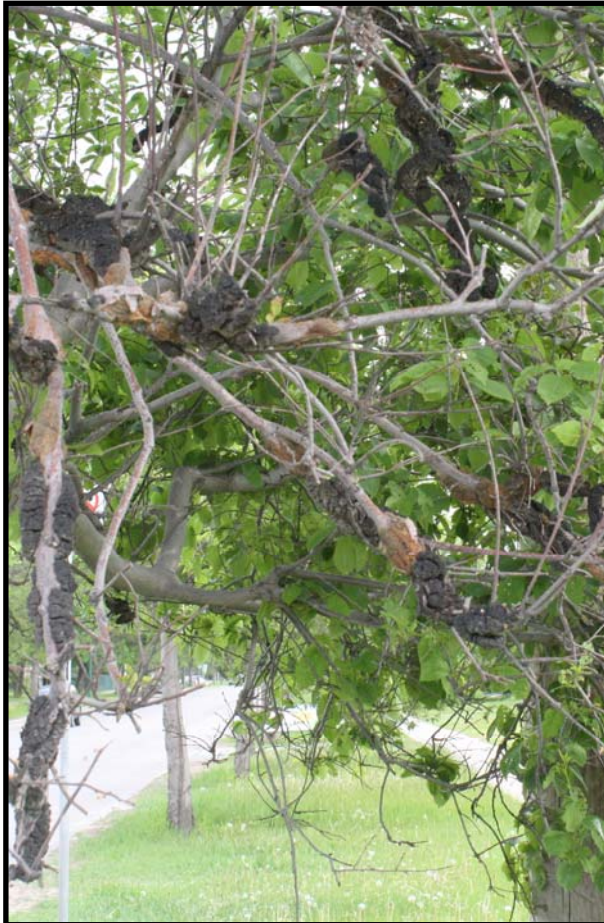
BLACK KNOT

Cherry Tree Fungal Disease



Black Knot

Black Knot is a fungal disease affecting many species of cherries, plums and other members of the genus *Prunus*. The disease is distributed across North America and is widespread throughout the City of Winnipeg in susceptible plants growing on private properties, boulevards, in parks and naturalized areas.



Black Knot is seen as elongate galls or swellings (knots) on twigs and branches on susceptible species.

Shubert Chokecherry

Shubert chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* var *melanocarpa* 'Shubert'), a cultivar highly susceptible to Black Knot, has become a popular tree in the urban landscape because of its purple foliage and small stature. Many newer developments in Winnipeg have a high percentage of this species planted on boulevards and in parks. The Urban Forestry Branch is currently discouraging the planting of any new Shubert chokecherry trees to limit the impact of the disease.



Due to the large population of susceptible and infected trees in the City of Winnipeg, the nature and magnitude of the disease in the City and the likelihood of re-infection, it is very difficult to control Black Knot on a large scale by pruning. As a result, the Urban Forestry Branch generally does not prune out growths from Black Knot infections in Shubert chokecherry. We will consider removing & replacing an infected tree upon request and after an inspection to determine the severity of the infection.

More information on Black Knot can be found on the University of Manitoba Horticultural Inquiries website at:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/afs/hort_inquiries/