

## BACTERIAL CANKER

Very common and widespread on trees in the Prunus genus including ornamental and edible cherries and plums. The main symptoms are gum-weeping lesions that appear on the branches or stems of the trees. This is followed by die back of the affected branches. Leaves can also have a shot-hole effect.

To reduce the infection or chance of infection the best method is to encourage a healthy tree that will fight the infection itself, as there is no spray that will directly control the canker.

Other things you can do to help are ensuring you have good hygiene, so clearing up all the fallen leaves and fruit in the autumn. Then during the spring and summer spray regularly with a fungicide such as Dithane 945 to keep other infections minimal and apply a foliar feed such as Miracle-Gro.

If the canker is much worse then the only option may be to remove the tree and burn it, as it will just become a source of infection for the rest of the garden.