

mn 2000 YGRB 5/14/76

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA •

May 14, 1976

Raspberry Diseases



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yard/garden
radio briefs

Producing raspberries from plants that are essentially one-hundred percent infected with virus diseases is very frustrating.

The best control at present is using certified plants. Insects-- usually aphids--spread the viruses, so controlling these pests will help. Up to the time that less than 10 percent of the plants are infected, there is a chance to check virus spread by digging out infected plants and all other plants within three feet of them.

The common fungus disease, anthracnose, affects raspberry canes, leaves, blossoms, berries and the little stalks that hold the berries. The infections damage the plant and cause some yield reduction. The stalk infection can ruin an otherwise good crop in a short time before harvest as the berries shrivel and turn black. Thinning out canes will result in improved ventilation and faster drying and done evenly will help even during wet periods. Fungicide applications every week from leaf forming through budding will save much of the crop. More applications can be made, but check literature and labels for the time of the last application before harvest.

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Oak Wilt

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Do not prune oak trees in spring, especially in May and June. This is when oak trees are most susceptible to infection from the oak wilt fungus. You can also reduce spread of oak wilt by not hauling red oak firewood from an infected area to uninfected places. This means that Twin Citians should not haul oak firewood to cabins in northern Minnesota.

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