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Armillaria root rot - *Armillaria* spp.

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In Michigan, armillaria root rot is common in Montmorency tart cherry orchards located on sandy, well-drained soils. Affected trees may exhibit poor growth for one or two years and then die suddenly in mid- to late summer. The disease spreads out from a central area of one or two initially infected trees. Clusters of honey-colored mushrooms may arise at the bases of dead trees in late August or September.



A thick, white, fan-shaped fungal mat is often present between the necrotic inner bark and the wood of the tree's crown (left). Armillaria is distinguished from other fungi by its dark brown to black, shoestring-like structures called rhizomorphs (right).

Additional information

- For more monitoring information and evaluation of available pesticides: [Michigan Fruit Management Guide](#)
- [MSU Diagnostic Services](#) for assistance in pest identification.
- [MSU Fruit Crop Advisory Team Alert](#) newsletters for current pest/crop conditions.

Images on this page provided by Alan L. Jones.

This information was developed from A Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Stone Fruits by David Epstein, Larry J. Gut, Alan L. Jones and Kimberly Maxson-Stein. Purchase this in a pocket-sized guide for reference in the orchard from [MSU Extension](#) (publication E-2840).

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