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European brown rot – *Monilinia laxa* (Aderh. & Ruhl.) Honey

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This rot is potentially serious on tart cherry cultivars Meteor, English Morello and Danube (Érdi bőtermő) but rare on Montmorency. Wet periods lasting for a day or more are required for severe blossom infection and spur dieback. Newly infected blossoms and later spur leaves turn brown and shrivel. One- to 3-inch-long elliptical cankers, often with gummosis, are formed at the bases of blighted spurs. The fungus may produce tufts of ash-gray conidia on blossom debris, dead spurs and cankers in the second or third season after infection. Fruit infections are rare.



Spur dieback on Meteor cause by European brown rot.



Bark removed to show canker, gumming around dead spur.

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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