



## Guide to Canker Diseases of Sweet Cherry Trees and Successful Pruning

W. Douglas Gubler, C.E. Specialist  
Ara Avadisi Abramians M.S. Student  
Department of Plant Pathology  
University of California, Davis

### CYTOSPORA CANKER

- Caused by *Cytospora personii*

How can you identify this disease in the field?

Cankers extend along the branch, producing a sunken lesions (Fig. 1a).

Cutting into the bark at the edge of the sunken area reveals discolored sapwood with irregularly shaped cankers (Fig. 1b).

Cankers are found in association with pruning wounds and injuries including sunburn (Fig. 1c).

Amber-colored gum usually develops at the infection site (Fig. 1c)



*Cytospora* fungi produce pimple-like spore-producing structures (*pycnidia*) (Fig. 1d)

Removal of the bark that looks bumpy will reveal the fruiting bodies (Fig. 1d and 1e)



### Calosphaeria Canker

- Caused by *Calosphaeria pulchella*

How can you identify this disease in the field?

Branch and main scaffold dieback (Fig. 2a)

Irregularly shaped cankers develop from the heartwood into the sapwood and development of amber-colored gumming in infected tissues (similar to *Cytospora*)

A sunken elliptical lesion develops as the fungus grows along the branch (Fig. 2b, c)

Fungal fruiting bodies (*perithecia*) are found under the bark of infected branches in masses (Fig. 2d, e). *Lenticles* (openings scattered throughout the woody parts of the) of infected branches are swollen and have a dark opening (Fig. 2f)

Figure 19: Pamphlet Sample:



## Calosphaeria Canker (Cont.)

2a



Branch dieback

2b



Sunken elliptical lesion

Young purple fungal fruiting body mass

2c



Lenticles of healthy branches

2f



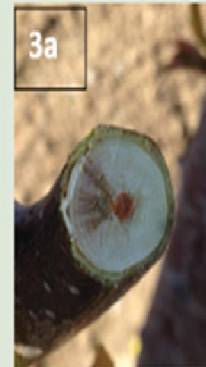
Lenticles of infected branches

2d

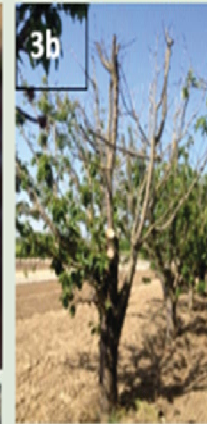


Fructing body mass

3a



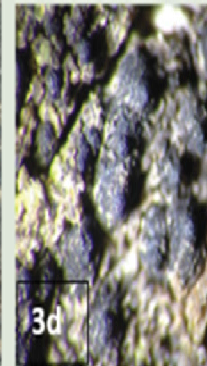
3b



3c



3d



## Eutypa Dieback

- Caused by *Eutypa lata*

How can you identify this disease in the field?

*Eutypa* cankers are "V"-shaped (Fig. 3a).

Heavily infected branches usually collapse during mid-summer (Fig. 3b)

Fructing bodies of *Eutypa lata* (Fig. 3d) are embedded in thin black/ dark colored layer of fungal tissue called stroma (Fig. 3c)



This is an example of a stub cut through a cankered limb branching off of the main trunk. Since the fungus was not completely eliminated from the branch, the remaining fungus in the stub cut grew into the trunk.

Pruning cuts must be protected by recommended protectants/ fungicides.

## PRUNING REFUSE MANAGEMENT

Brush piles or dead trees (Fig. 6a) are a guaranteed source of inoculum. Canker fungi remain viable in dead tissues, form fruiting bodies and release spores upon wetting.

