

BACTERIAL FIRE BLIGHT
Erwinia amylovora

- Natural range -** Widespread throughout North America
- Species affected -** Apple, pear, quince, crabapple, hawthorn, mountain ash, serviceberry, pyracantha, cotoneaster, blackberry, raspberry and other members of the rose family.
- Type of damage -** Damage is unsightly and infected trees have dieback, reduced fruit yields and, in the case of heavy infections, trees can die.
- Symptoms -** Presence of wilted leaves, blossoms that appear *water soaked* and dead branch tips that curl into a characteristic “shepherd’s crook.” Later sunken, dark colored cankers appear on branches or stems of infested trees
- Importance -** Fire blight is a major pest of fruit trees. Some varieties of apple, pear and crabapple are more susceptible than others.



Left – Characteristic shepherd’s crook caused by bacterial fire blight on apple.
Right – Dark colored canker on stem of apple.