

Where is fire blight in New York & New England?

Submit fire blight infected trees and strikes for testing

Samples are tested for fire blight bacteria, streptomycin resistance, and strain.

Contact one of the persons below to help you collect samples and take data:

Kerik Cox, 315-787-2401, kdc33@cornell.edu, NYSAES (Receiving lab)
Janet VanZoeren, 585-797-8368, jev67@cornell.edu CCE LOFT, Orleans Office
Dan Donahue, 518-322-7812, djd13@cornell.edu, CCE ENYCHP, Hudson Valley Lab
Mike Basedow, 518-410-6823, mrb254@cornell.edu, CCE ENYCHP, Champlain Valley

Samples should be mailed to:

Kerik Cox
Cornell AgriTech
15 Castle Creek Dr.
Geneva, NY 14456

Sample information

Please fill in as much of the information below as possible:

Date collected _____

Collector's name _____

Grower name _____

Farm name and block/location _____

Street address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____

GPS coordinates of the sample collected _____

Part of the tree infected is (circle) -

blossom cluster current shoot young wood trunk

Length of strike (ft. in.) _____

Variety _____ Rootstock _____

Age of tree/year planted _____

If a newly planted tree, from what nursery? _____

Blossom and shoot blight management applications in 2020

Date	Material
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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Instructions:

It is only possible to isolate the bacteria (*Erwinia amylovora*) from fresh, active lesions, where healthy tissue meets the diseased tissue. i.e. the lesion margin.

Sampling the Lesion Margin

Collect samples that include about 3 inches of healthy tissue beyond the infected tissue, and include about 3 inches of infected tissue. Do not submit all the dead branch of the strike, this is often too long and can be cut back, as described. Do not collect entire branches or trees unless symptoms are unusual.

Protect samples from drying out prior to submitting them. If possible, refrigerate them. It is impossible to isolate fire blight bacteria from dead, dried out tissue.

If possible collect samples with visible ooze!



Fire blight strike on current shoot (photo courtesy of J. Carroll).

Healthy growth. Trim this down, leaving about three inches of healthy tissue.

Lower lesion margin. Cut at least three inches into healthy tissue, below the lesion.

The strike. Cut this back, leaving about three inches of infected tissue.



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