

## Pocket Plum



Pocket plum (*Taphrina pruni*) is a fungal disease that is related to peach leaf curl and affects plums, damsons, blackthorn (sloe) and some ornamental *Prunus* species, causing fruit to develop abnormally rendering it inedible.

### DAMAGE

The spores penetrate the flesh of the young fruits causing them to form without a stone. Fruits become elongated (banana shaped) and do not swell often shriveling before falling to the ground. The infection can also cause deformities on the twigs and stems of trees causing them to thicken and distort and giving them a witches' broom appearance, although this may also be caused by a similar fungus *T.insititia*.

### CONTROL

This risk of this disease cannot be totally eliminated and is worse after cool wet weather as spores travel on the wind and rain and therefore may carry from infected trees in the surrounding area.

#### Non chemical Controls

Remove any infected fruits and prune out and destroy any abnormal, shoots, stems or branches before any spores can be released into the air.

#### Chemical Controls

There are no fungicides available to gardeners to control this disease.