



Stamen Blight

This disease affects raspberries and blackberries and causes deformities in the flowers and fruit.

SYMPTOMS

Infected flowers are slightly larger than healthy ones, with double the amount of petals. The stamens are covered with masses of white spores which give the flowers a mildewed appearance. Berries that develop from infected flowers, ripen earlier than healthy ones, are deformed, the drupelets ripen unevenly and the berries are difficult to pick. Spores from the flowers are carried by wind, rain splash or by pollinating insects and infect the buds on the new canes.

CONTROL

Infected flowers should be picked off and burned as soon as they are seen. For blackberries, growing two bushes and cropping them alternate years will help control this disease. There are no chemicals available to the amateur gardener to manage this condition.