

Apricot Die-back



This is one of the most common diseases affecting apricots.

DAMAGE

Apricot Die-back is usually caused by fungi or through frost damage. If growth starts very early in the spring and frosts occur, the tree can suffer from injury and this can trigger die-back. First one branch and then the whole side of the tree dies.

CONTROL

Using sterilized secateurs cut back all dead wood to healthy tissue at least 20-30cm (8-12in) below any visible damage and paint the wounds with a protective wound paint such as Growing Success 'Prune & Seal', Bayer '**Arbrex Seal & Heal**' or Vitax 'Medo' which are suitable for use by organic gardeners. Give adequate feeding, watering and mulching to encourage plenty of replacement growth. As a preventative measure, apricot trees should always be protected from spring frosts using fleece.

How to Sterilize Your Garden Tools

You can sterilize your secateurs or other gardening tools by immersing the blades in boiling water for 5-10 minutes. Alternatively dipping them in methylated spirit or rubbing them with a cloth soaked in methylated spirit will also work.