

## **BLACK KNOT:** What are those Black Lumps on my Trees?

As you drive around the city or town you may be asking yourself – what is that black stuff in some of the trees? ---- It's called Black Knot.

### **Black Knot:** What exactly is it?

Black Knot are those thick, black, irregular swellings on twigs and branches. It is a fungus that is highly contagious and spreads by fungus spores that are released from infected trees in the spring at about the time of bud break. These fungus spores are spread by rain drops, wind and insects

### **Who can get it?**

Black Knot attacks trees of the plum family. That is:

- Schubert Chokecherry
- Mayday Tree
- Common Chokecherry
- Rare in Amur Cherry and Pin Cherry

### **When and where** should I look for it?

1. In spring, a small (1-2cm) velvety, olive green 'knot' appears on a slightly swollen area where one branch meets another branch.
2. Later in the season the 'knot' turns black and hardens. It will be 10-15cm in length and completely encircle the branch.

### **WHY does it happen?**

Already present in the environment, the fungus will activate in the spring and travel to find a suitable host tree for growth.

### **HOW CAN I STOP IT?**

Prune infected branches 15-30cm (6"-12") below the knot and burn the pruned branches. Disinfect pruners after each cut by rinsing blades in a 10% bleach solution.