

Citrus gummosis

Recognize the problem

An early symptom of gummosis is sap oozing from small cracks in the infected bark, giving the tree a bleeding appearance. Symptoms can be seen in fruit if the disease is severe. Decline may occur over several years or can happen rapidly within a year, especially under conditions favourable for disease development. It may also be seen if there was high flower initiation. This will ultimately cause the affected plant to collapse.

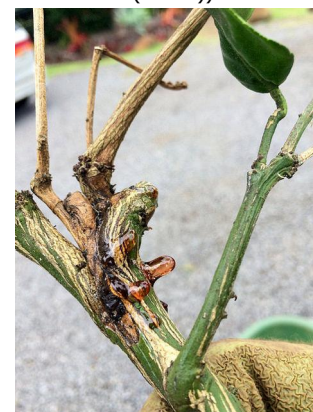
Background

This disease is also known as gumming diseases of citrus. It is caused by a fungus. Infection may occur from soil or nursery plants due to extended periods of moist and wet conditions. This disease is commonly seen in mandarin, sweet orange, lemons and other citrus fruits. Gummosis is one of the main diseases that contribute to for citrus decline.

Management

- Always keep the orchard clean. Prune unproductive, dry and disease/insect infected branches
- The unproductive branches have fast upward growth. Use bordeaux-pest 10% on wounds created by pruning and on the main trunk from the ground well to about one meter high.
- Spray bordeaux mixture 1% thoroughly on the whole plant after harvest and repeat again at fruit setting. Monitor the orchard regularly.
- If the bark is cracking or has mechanical injury, use bordeaux-pest 10% immediately. Likewise, if there is gum secretion on any part of the tree, clean it off and use Bordeaux-pest as mentioned before.

Symptom on citrus stem (Photo by Scot Nelson (CC BY))



Gum secretion on citrus tree (Photo by A.A. Seif, icipe)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Phytophthora spp.**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Nepal



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