

# ASK THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

## Welcome

### To my Weekly Series

Feel free to send me questions you'd like to have me answer and I will do my best to address the ones of most general interest. Email or mail your questions to:

[info@sprigsandtwigs.net](mailto:info@sprigsandtwigs.net) or Linda Lillie,  
Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales  
Ferry, CT 06335



### Question of the Week:

**Dear Linda-** I have approx. 25-year-old weeping cheery in my front yard. This year as soon as the blossoms appeared, there was an approx. 80 to 90% die back of blossoms and future leaf buds. As of right now, many of the tree's tentacles (branches) are dead or dying. Yesterday while driving down Roxbury Rd. in Niantic, I noticed 2 other houses with Weeping cherries with the same condition. Is it possible there is a blight or fungus affecting these trees and is possible these trees will survive? Thank you Paul



**Caption:** Paul's Tree in better years

## Linda's Answer

Dear Paul,

The wet and cool spring has created the perfect environment for fungal diseases to develop.

There are several possibilities of fungal diseases that could be affecting your tree:

Cherry Leaf Spot

Verticillium Wilt

Phytophthora Root and Crown Rot

Armillaria Root Rot

Each of these diseases causes leaf drop.

I would suggest that you contact the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Plant Disease Information Office at 203-974-8601 or go to their website. There's a protocol to follow to submit a sample to the station, so they can tell you exactly what the disease is and how to correct it.

In the meantime, I strongly recommend that you clean up all the dead leaves under the tree and put them into a plastic bag and properly dispose of the bag. **Do not** put the leaves into your compost pile or spread them into the surrounding woodland. The diseased leaves sitting on the ground will deposit fungal spores into the soil which will re-infect the tree next year if we have another wet, cool spring.