

## **Stem Canker and Dieback**

Stem canker and dieback cause discolored, often slightly sunken, lesions on stems, twigs, and branches. Cankers kill water-conducting tissues, so dieback (wilting and death of foliage) spreads beyond the canker. The entire plant may be killed.

Canker and dieback are common on many shrubs, flowers, and trees. Prune dead and weakened branches several inches below the affected area. Disinfect shears between cuts. Burn the prunings. Destroy badly affected plants.