

Two Great Properties!

Tranquil Home with Casual Napa Valley Style

39 Donald Drive, Orinda

Virtual Tour: www.circlepix.com/home/F7AWG



This exquisite 5 bedroom 4.5 baths home was remodeled from the ground up in late 2008 and features many custom details including a large chef's kitchen with Wolf Pro Range and Sub-Zero wine cooler and refrigerator. The secluded residence is situated on 2.14 acres with dynamic views, terraced gardens, two spas, deck and prep work complete for a vineyard. This home is both casual and elegant, balancing the best of contemporary living and natural tranquility. Offered at \$2,600,000

Fashionable Rancher on Quiet Court

130 Cottage Lane, Walnut Creek

Virtual tour: www.circlepix.com/home/F7N8NZ



Modern living at its best! Tucked away at the end of a quiet court, only minutes away from downtown Walnut Creek and near the award-winning Parkmead Elementary in the Acalanes School District is this stylish 3 bedroom 2 baths home, boasting 2036 sq ft. The gourmet kitchen opens to a warm family room with fireplace and back yard patio. The spacious living room has a wood burning fireplace and the master suite includes a walk-in closet and bathroom with cherry cabinets and granite surfaces. Offered at \$759,000



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Fire Blight Disease – Time is Key

By Andy Scheck



Arrows point to the telltale holes in the leaves that are indicative of the early stages of fire blight

Photo Andy Scheck

Every spring, Moraga's blooming pear orchards offer a feast for the eyes. This year we even received a phone call from a Lafayette resident who wanted to know where, and when, to go for prime pear tree viewing. My own pear tree bore a grand floral display, and the hard-working bees did their job pollinating them on our few dry days.

Late last week I noticed that my tree sported some dried twigs and I started to wonder what was going on. Looking closer, I discovered that the tree showed symptoms of fire blight disease. I was first introduced to fire blight in Germany, where it's very common. Seeking a second opinion on my diagnosis, I clipped twigs and leaves off the tree and brought them to the Moraga Garden Center. The owner, Kenny Murakami, confirmed my

theory and encouraged me to act quickly.

Fire blight is caused by bacteria (*erwinia amylovora*) and is common on roses, as well as pear and apple trees. It generally starts from the blossom or flower and moves up the twigs into the branches. It's often fatal for the plant. The bacteria spread easily by several methods, such as rain, birds, insects, or when plants brush against each other.

The best way to deal with this disease is to remove all of the infected parts of the plant. Branches should be cut at least eight inches from the infected area. All infected material should be burned or discarded in the trash. Make sure you don't leave any material on the ground as it can spread from there to other plants or back to the treated plant.

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