

# Primefact

## Shot hole

September 2024, Primefact PUB24/852, first edition

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Shot hole is caused by a fungus (*Stigmata carpophila*) and affects the leaves, fruit and buds.

### Disease identification

Shot hole is initially identified by small brown spots with reddish rims on the leaves. These spots grow and the centre falls out, leaving a round shot hole in the leaf (Figure 1). On the fruit, the spots can develop into deep indentations.

### Damage

Shot hole reduces the tree's photosynthetic capacity. If the infection is severe, the tree might suffer from premature leaf fall. Fruit can also be marked and disfigured, making it unmarketable.

### Monitoring

Wet conditions in late winter to early spring can activate shot hole spores that have remained dormant in bud scales and twig lesions during the previous season. Infection requires at least 24 hours of continuous wetness and spores can germinate in temperatures as low as 1 °C. Rain during budswell helps to spread the disease.



Figure 1. Shot hole infection in apricot leaves.

### Management

**Cultural and physical:** where practical, prune out infected wood and burn the prunings. Hastening leaf fall will reduce the amount of inoculum that builds up during autumn.

**Biological:** there are no known biological control agents for shot hole.

**Chemical:** check the [APVMA PubCRIS database](https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris) for registered controls (<https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>).

### Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Dr Amanda Warren-Smith for her editorial and publication skills in producing this Primefact.



## Communication and Extension for the Australian Cherry Industry



Department of Primary  
Industries and Regional  
Development

Hort  
Innovation CHERRY  
FUND



**Cherries**  
The Victorian Cherry Association

Fruit Growers  
Tasmania

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ISSN: 1832-6668

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