

MAPLE (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku')
Bacterial Blight; *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*

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Observations of pruning cuts and symptoms of bacterial blight of maple, 2004.

The objective of the trial was to determine if pruning wounds developed symptoms of bacterial blight. Observations were made in a block of 'Sango Kaku' Japanese maples planted in 1999 on a 5 x 20 ft spacing. Every other tree was pruned during the first half of Sept 03 to shorten long shoots and keep tree canopies from touching. In all there were 25 trees pruned and 26 trees not pruned. Urea fertilizer was not broadcast around each tree and plots were not irrigated to stimulate late season growth this year. Plots were not inoculated with bacteria this year. Incidence of bacterial blight was evaluated on 16 Mar 04 by recording the number of shoots that had symptoms of bacterial blight and shoot dieback out of 20 shoots randomly selected from the tree.

The first, major killing frost was on 1 Nov 03 with a low temperature of 21°F referred to as the Halloween freeze (second year in a row). The dormant season rainfall overall was considered normal. Lowest dormant season temperature (after the late Oct freeze) was 19 F recorded on 6 Jan 04. Pruned trees had significantly more shoots with symptoms (0.5 shoots/tree) than nonpruned trees (16.9 shoots/tree). The blackening observed generally occurred at the cut surface of the shoot and did not always extend beyond the next node. An average of 11.8 shoots/pruned tree had symptoms that extended below the first node. Overall, very little disease developed during either the dormant or growing seasons on any of these trees except for one that had symptoms of *Verticillium* wilt.