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Spots or blotches on blueberry stems or branches:

Canker diseases

Fusicoccum putrefaciens and *Phomopsis vaccinii*

- Reddish-brown, target like cankers can be found on infected branches
- Cankers are often low on the branch and near a leaf scar
- Cankers enlarge each year until they girdle and kill the stem
- In summer, leaves on infected branches, wilt and turn reddish-brown
- Small black bumps can be found around cankers and on dead branches





[More information on Canker diseases](#)

Anthracnose

- Salmon to orange colored sticky spore masses develop on infected berries and stems when wet
- Infected twigs/canes have dark brown lesions with raised bumps arranged in concentric circles
- Reddish-brown round to irregular spots on leaves
- Berries become soft and wrinkled from the blossom end



Botrytis Blight/Gray Mold

Botrytis cinerea

- Twigs turn brownish-black and become gray
- Infected blossoms turn brown and become covered with a fuzzy gray mold
- Berries are covered with a fuzzy gray mold
- Leaves have brown, irregular lesions and may become distorted





[More information on Botrytis Blight/Gray Mold](#)

Unusual growth on stem or branches:

Crown Gall

Agrobacterium tumefaciens

- Galls (tumor-like overgrowth) occur on roots, where the stem meets the soil and occasionally higher on stems
- Young galls are soft, light green in color, with no bark
- Older galls are brown to black and are hard
- Severely infected plants may be stunted
- Severely infected plants should be removed and destroyed



[More information on Crown Gall](#)

Witches Broom

Pucciniastrum goeppertianum

- Broom-like clusters of swollen reddish-brown stems and small leaves develop in the plant
- Young stems within brooms are initially yellow or reddish, but later become brown and shiny, and, eventually, dry and cracked
- Most common on blueberries in northern Minnesota planted near fir trees
- Will cause needle yellowing and loss in nearby fir trees
- Infected blueberry plants should be removed and destroyed





[More information on Blueberry witches broom](#)

Source: [University of Minnesota Extension](#)