

## Disinfectants for Pruning Tools

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The previous recommendation was to use alcohol, Lysol or one part household bleach in nine parts water and dip the head of the pruner in the solution. Bleach and alcohol are corrosive to metal. Research also indicated that Lysol diluted 1 to 4 was just as effective as bleach and causes less corrosion.

The current recommendation is to dip or soak in a quaternary ammonium disinfectant such as GreenShield [http://titandarum.uconn.edu/msds/greenshield\\_label.pdf](http://titandarum.uconn.edu/msds/greenshield_label.pdf) or Triathlon <http://www.ohp.com/Products/triathlon.php> which is effective and will not corrode the metal. Whether you dip or soak is a matter of time.

### When a known pathogen is present, like fireblight

Best results will be obtained by soaking the tool for at least one minute as opposed to dipping. In reference to the rate, the higher the concentration, the shorter the "soak time".

(An OHP representative suggested carrying two pair of pruners and allow one pair to soak while using the other between plants.) Allow the solution to cover the metal blades. Dr. Alan Windham, UT Extension plant pathologist suggests mixing as directed in a spray bottle and spray the pruners frequently and wet from 2 sides while pruning the susceptible plants during fire blight season.

When dipping or soaking: Change the solution when it gets visibly clouded with dirt, debris.

Comm/Dis/Disinfectants for Tools