



Planting with Blight threat

Posted by [Kyle Barrett](#)

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[Kyle Barrett](#)

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April 20, 2023 03:34PM

Registered: 8 months ago

Posts: 3

I am helping someone plant new apple trees. The neighbor has had a battle with fire blight the past few years and shows little urgency in managing the threats. When is the right time to plant considering this blight threat?

Kyle Barrett

Fairlee, VT

Zone 4

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[Brittany Kordick](#)

[Re: Planting with Blight threat](#)

April 22, 2023 05:22PM

Registered: 4 years ago

Posts: 211

It sounds as if you are concerned that any trees you plant for this individual will be subjected to a fair amount of fireblight pressure with no attempt at intervention and prevention for the lifetime of the trees (or that of the person in question) regardless of any optimization surrounding the trees' planting. But if you're wanting to get off on the best possible foot, I guess I would vote for planting in late fall in order to let the trees establish as much as possible over the winter and be in the best possible shape going into a late spring/early summer fireblight season in a high exposure situation. Although you could make the argument that if the trees are well-established by the following spring, they will be more likely to have the energy reserves to put on a plethora of rapid shoot growth that *Erwinia amylovora* favors so particularly, whereas a spring-planted tree will be establishing and not be putting out a ton of new growth during prime fireblight time. If it's more of a situation where you think fireblight damage is inevitable and don't want to be blamed for the owner's lack of care, planting late in the year would provide more of a time cushion (the trees will likely be alive and well for 8 months or so before fireblight primetime hits).

Good luck!

[Kordick Family Farm](#)

Westfield, NC

Zone 7a

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