

Slime Flux or Wetwood
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What causes this black hole in my tree? The spot looks wet and is oozing sap. This is a condition called slime flux or wet wood. It happens when a bacteria or yeast enters wounds or cracks in the tree. The area appears wet and can ooze sap in the summer when the tree is growing. The sap can be dark and stain the trunk of the tree. The sap may also have a strong odor and can attract large numbers of insects like bees, wasps and hornets.

This may be more common on weakened trees but this disease is unlikely to kill the tree unless there are several on the same tree. There is no chemical control for the problem. The best solution is to keep the tree in the best possible condition and let it recover by itself. You can clean the wound with a dilute bleach solution. Use one part bleach to nine parts water. This may help to stop the flow of sap temporarily but I would not be surprised to see the problem return.

For more information see

<http://apps.caes.uga.edu/urbanag/Home&Garden/indexFS.cfm?storyid=2714>