

Nectria canker of rowan

We have received several enquiries concerning shoot dieback of rowan caused by the fungus *Nectria ditissima*. Affected trees show death of scattered shoots (near right) with the fungus fruiting at the base of dead shoots (far right). Infection occurs via injuries or leaf and bud scars, and shoots die when girdled. This fungus also attacks other tree species, including beech and ash.



Bacterial canker of cherry

This disease of cherry causes death of shoots, and can even kill young trees. Symptoms include brown spots on leaves, which fall out leaving 'shot-holes', and cankers on the bark which exude gum. The disease is caused by a bacterium, *Pseudomonas syringae*, which lives on the leaves and infects the bark via wounds or leaf scars in autumn. The disease can spread rapidly through the bark in spring.

***Lophodermella conjuncta* needle cast**

Affecting Corsican and Scots pines, this disease becomes evident when resinous red bands develop on older needles in summer. Yellowing and then browning of needles occurs adjacent to the bands but the discolouration spreads rapidly until entire needles are dead. The banding symptom can result in confusion of this disease with Red Band Needle Blight. If in doubt consult a pathologist!



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Black canker of willow

Recently noticeable on willows in southern England. Symptoms include shrivelled leaves and black lesions on young shoots which cause the shoot tip to bend over like a shepherd's crook. It is caused by the fungus *Glomerella miyabeana* (*Colletotrichum* sp.) but the condition can be confused with willow scab (*Pollaccia saliciperda*). Infection occurs when warm wet conditions prevail.



Mildew on Oak

The warm, damp weather has encouraged the development of oak mildew this year. Caused by the fungus *Microspora alphitoides*, it attacks leaves and soft shoots tips giving them a white, powdery-like coating, and can result in distortion, dwarfing and defoliation. It is mainly an aesthetic problem, although repeated attacks of mildew are thought to play a part in 'oak decline' (Path News issue 3).

Sphaeropsis shoot blight

Scattered one-year-old shoots of 2-needled pines, notably Corsican pine, are occasionally killed by the fungus *Sphaeropsis sapinea*. Main symptoms are stunted new shoots with short, brown needles. Entire new shoots are killed rapidly. New shoots throughout the entire tree may be infected, but damage is generally first evident on the lower branches.



If you see any of these diseases in your area, we would be interested to know.

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