

Summary of enquiries in 2009/2010

109 enquiries were received with 21 relating to privately owned amenity trees. Enquiries also came from Forest Enterprise (9) as well as private woodlands (11). These included numerous enquiries about pine, including red band needle blight and *Ramichloridium pini* (right) (22), as well as spruce (8), beech (10) and horse chestnut (8).



Biotic damage

Several enquiries were received concerning *Phytophthora* spp., including *P. gonapodyides* on beech and yew. Horse chestnut bleeding canker, caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*, was also confirmed on the Isle of Arran. Unusually, the pine needle midge (*Contarinia baeri*) was found causing severe browning and defoliation of Scots pine. The larvae feed at the bases of needles resulting in flagging and needle loss (right).



Abiotic damage

Failure of newly planted 4-6 m tall *Acer campestre* trees in an urban setting highlighted the importance of supplementary watering during root establishment. In this case tree mortality was most likely due to moisture stress as a result of insufficient watering during a prolonged dry period in early summer 2009. Enquiries were also received concerning suspected herbicide damage (right) on hedgerow trees alongside arable fields.



Summary of enquiries in 2009/2010

510 enquiries were received, which included 334 for amenity trees and 84 for forest/woodland trees. The most frequently reported diseases were bleeding canker of horse chestnut, honey fungus, oak dieback and various decay fungi. Public interest in bleeding canker and acute oak decline (right) generated many requests for information and reports of new cases. A Practice Note on Acute Oak Decline is now available by clicking on this link (AOD Leaflet).



Biotic damage

The 'sudden oak death' pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, was found causing extensive dieback and mortality of Japanese larch in south west England in 2009. Symptoms include aborted bud flush and needle browning. Affected trees have multiple resin bleeds on branches and trunks leading to dieback (right). Mild, moist climates of western Britain provide the best environment for infection. More information is available at: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcsymptomshandoutcombined2.pdf/\\$file/fcsymptomshandoutcombined2.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcsymptomshandoutcombined2.pdf/$file/fcsymptomshandoutcombined2.pdf)



Abiotic damage

The 2009/10 winter was the most severe in 30 years so watch for signs of damage from de-icing salt as trees leaf out. Typical symptoms include crown dieback and marginal leaf scorch (right). The 2008/9 winter was also severe (the worst in 18 years) but as 2009 progressed no cases of salt damage were reported. This may be due to the adoption of recommendations described in FC Bulletin 101 'De-icing Salt Damage to Trees and Shrubs'.

