

Summary of enquiries in 2004/2005

91 enquiries were received, mostly relating to privately owned amenity trees (35). Enquiries also came from Forest Research staff (16), private forestry consultants (11), and other government departments and agencies (6). These included sites with SSSI status (see right). Other enquirers were Forest Enterprise (9) and the Forestry Commission on behalf of private woodland (5).



Biotic damage

Pathogenic fungi were confirmed as the cause of damage in 23 enquiries. Several enquiries related to the prevalence of leaf spot and blotch diseases of sycamore, brought on by the wet summer of 2004. A notable record for 2004 was shoot blight of mature *Tsuga mertensiana* caused by *Sirococcus strobilinus* (see left). This is the first time that this fungus has been recorded on *Tsuga* sp. in the UK.

Abiotic damage

Drought during 2003 was the suspected or confirmed cause of damage in 9 enquiries. The most notable enquiry came from Kincardine Forest District concerning defoliation and death of Norway spruce and Sitka spruce. Symptoms on surviving Sitka spruce included lenticular stem lesions and resinosis (see right). This is the first record of widespread damage to Sitka spruce due to drought in Scotland.



Contact:

Sarah Green,
Forest Research,
Northern Research Station,
Roslin, Midlothian,
EH25 9SY.

Tel: 0131 445 2176
Fax: 0131 445 5124
E-mail: sarah.green@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Summary of enquiries in 2004/2005

708 enquiries were received, mostly relating to privately (382) or publicly (68) owned amenity trees. Other enquirers included Forest Enterprise (27), private woodland owners (80), nurseries (12) and conservation bodies (10). Over 230 enquiries were generated by concerns about *Phytophthora ramorum*, such as stem bleeding on horse chestnut (right). All proved negative for *P. Ramorum*.



Biotic damage

Damage to Corsican and other black pines was frequently caused by the shoot blight fungus, *Sphaeropsis sapinea*. There were several cases of Sooty Bark Disease (*Cryptostroma*) on sycamore following the hot dry summer in 2003. Blossom wilt (*Monilinia laxa*) on certain flowering cherries was also widely reported. The decay fungus *Meripilus giganteus* (see left) was unusually prevalent during 2004.

Abiotic Damage

Dramatic damage to the foliage of broadleaf trees, especially lime (see right) was recorded along the south coast of England in early July. This was due to wind-blown salt spray from a violent gale on 29 June which carried the spray up to 8 miles inland. Many birch were showing stem bleeding and dieback most probably connected to drought damage from the summer of 2003.



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

Contact:

David Rose,
Forest Research,
Alice Holt Lodge,
Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH.

Tel: 01420 22255
Fax: 01420 23653
E-mail: david.rose@forestry.gsi.gov.uk