

Scotland & Northern Britain

Summary of enquiries 2012/2013

203 enquiries were received, with 99 relating to forests and woodlands, and 73 associated with parks and gardens.

Enquiries came from Forestry Commission staff (68) as well as private individuals (105). Many enquiries (18) concerned suspected *Chalara fraxinia* infections of ash (below), for which there are currently 107 known infected sites in Scotland, including 93 new planting sites, 3 nurseries and 11 sites in the wider environment.



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Biotic damage

The mild winter of 2011/12 and the wet 2012 summer exacerbated a number of pests and diseases, namely the spruce aphid *Elatobium abietinum* on Sitka and Norway spruces, and widespread shot-hole damage to cherry leaves. Several more juniper sites in Scotland and the Lake District were found to be infected with *Phytophthora austrocedrae* and there was the first report of *P. ramorum* infection of larch in eastern Scotland (below).



Abiotic damage

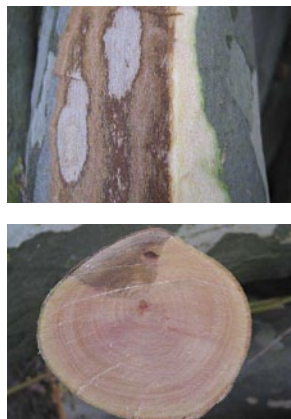
Widespread foliage browning of conifers has been reported from numerous locations in Scotland this spring. Affected species include Douglas fir, noble fir, silver fir (below) and Scots pine. The symptoms are consistent with winter injury, possibly due to an extended cold, dry period in March 2013 followed by heavy snowfall and strong easterly winds. Such conditions, i.e. trees standing in frozen soil and subject to wind-driven water loss, could result in desiccation leading to needle and shoot death.



England & Wales

Summary of enquiries in 2012/2013

1295 enquiries were received; 889 for privately or publicly owned amenity trees, while 128 related to forest/woodland trees. 1002 enquiries concerned possible cases of Chalara Dieback of ash. Of these, 23 were found to be Chalara, 51 some other damaging agent and 928 are pending a result. Other commonly reported diseases were bleeding canker of horse chestnut, honey fungus, oak dieback, Massaria disease causing staining in the wood of London Plane (below) and *Phytophthora* diseases.



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Abiotic damage

There was a relative large number of cases involving herbicide damage to trees due to poor application methods of agricultural or amenity herbicides. The herbicide most commonly associated with such damage was glyphosate producing the characteristic 'little leaf' symptom (below) on hedgerow trees and shrubs, especially hawthorn. Such damage is usually sub-lethal unless it is repeated over several years when significant dieback or even mortality can occur.



Bacterial canker of ash

Cankers on ash caused by the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* ssp. *savastanoi* pv *fraxini*, appear as roughened eruptions of bark tissue on branches and stems of ash (below) which commonly encircle the branch and stem. Infected trees usually have many such cankers along branches giving rise to the other common name – Bacterial Knot disease. There is a strong genetic basis for infection, and where ash has been managed for some time the disease tends to be infrequent or rare as the susceptible individuals have been selectively removed over time.

