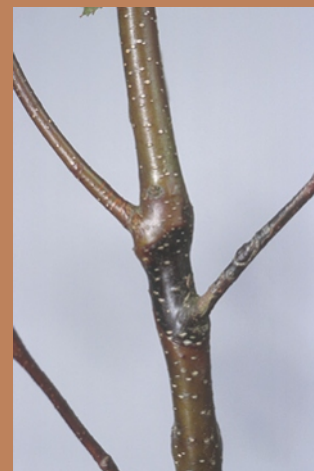


### Die-back of silver birch

Many young, recently planted silver birch in Scotland are showing symptoms of die-back (left). Affected trees may have discrete lesions and tip die-back on current shoots, and darkened, sunken cankers on older shoots and on the main stem (right). Fungi pathogenic on birch include *Marssonina betulae* and *Discula betulina*. These fungi are currently under investigation.



### Cherry leaf diseases

Three leaf diseases caused by different fungi are common in Scotland this year. These include leaf spots caused by *Blumeriella jaapii* (left) *Stigmina carpophila* (middle), and leaf scorch caused by *Apiognomonina erythrostoma* (right). These fungi will cause premature leaf death but trees should flush normally next year.

### Green spruce aphid

You will probably have noticed the severe browning and defoliation of spruce in northern Britain this spring and summer. The culprit is the green spruce aphid (*Elatobium abietinum*) which feeds on the mature needles. Populations of this aphid have increased this year due to the mild winter. Although trees look very poor, they should recover.



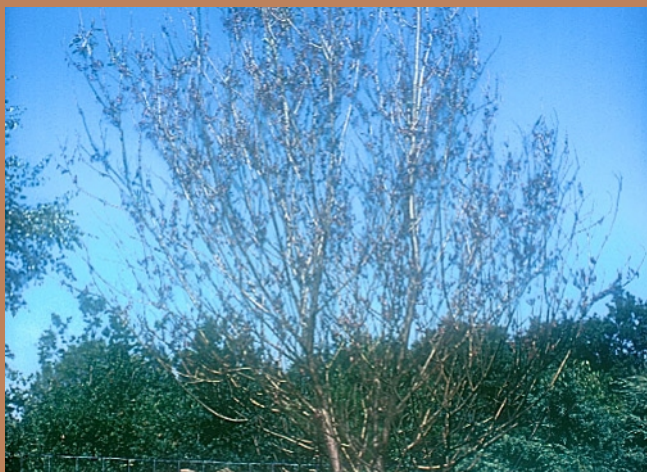
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### **Phomopsis Canker of Juniper**

At any time of year you may see scattered shoots or branches that are faded, yellowed, brown or dead on juniper. This happens when *Phomopsis* infects shoots causing girdling and shoot death. Other symptoms include visible patches of dead bark, and resin may exude from affected branches. It is found on both wild and planted junipers and reports suggest it may be more frequent this year.



### **Willow Scab**

A series of wet springs has encouraged the development of many leaf and shoot diseases. An example is willow scab (*Pollaccia saliciperda*), which can be very severe on some willow species (eg crack willow). In some cases, trees can lose almost all their foliage and suffer widespread die-back, so the problem is very visible. Trees can die if affected several years in succession.

### **Anthracnose of Plane**

This disease causes bud, shoot and bark killing of London Plane. The cause is the fungus *Apiognomonia veneta*. In spring, scattered shoots and buds fail to flush; later on shoots and leaves can suddenly wilt and die, as if frosted. Leaves may show brown patches of discolouration along the veins. Although symptoms can be alarming, even severely defoliated trees usually recover by mid summer.



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

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