

### Summary of enquiries:

#### April 2003 - March 2004

124 enquiries were received during 2003/04, with most relating to privately owned amenity trees (32) and private woodlands (24). Enquiries also came from the forests (see right), forest nurseries and Christmas tree plantations of Forest Enterprise (20), the Forestry Commission on behalf of private woodland owners (18) and from regional and district councils (8).



### Biotic Damage

Living agents were diagnosed as the cause of damage or disease in 39 cases. These included the fungi *Dothistroma pini* causing red band needle blight on Corsican pine and *Armillaria* leading to group deaths in young Sitka spruce restock. Other fungal pathogens included *Marssonina betulae* and *Melampsorium betulinum* on birch, and *Sawadaea tulasnei* causing powdery mildew on *Acer* (see left).

### Abiotic damage

Non-living agents were wholly or partly responsible for damage to trees in 23 of the enquiries received during 2003/2004. Exposure, drying winds and lack of rain-fall, leading to desiccation of foliage or entire plants, were the most common causes of such injury. Cases of damage resulting from soil compaction, herbicide misapplication, poor plant handling, fire and drought (see right) were also encountered.



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### Summary of enquiries in 2003/2004

614 enquiries were received. Woodland-related enquiries came from Forest Enterprise (26), private woodland owners (61) and conservation bodies (10). Amenity tree enquiries included many from private owners (284) and public bodies (45), with others from researchers or commercial organisations such as nurseries (16). Over 150 enquiries were generated by concerns about *Phytophthora ramorum* (see right)..



### Causes of damage

Frequent causes of conifer damage included shoot and needle diseases of pine (*Dothistroma pini* and *Sphaeropsis sapinea*). Common problems of broadleaf trees included *Apiognomia veneta* causing anthracnose on London plane and *Ganoderma adspersum* causing severe decay (see left) and some tree failures. Bleeding canker of horse chestnut was very widespread with 43 reported cases.

### Leaf blight and stem canker of holly

Leaf blight caused by *Phytophthora ilicis* was particularly evident in coastal areas of Southern England this winter. Charcoal-black leaf necrosis initiated from leaf tips and margins are the first indications of the disease (see right). Infected leaves are soon shed and in severe attacks significant defoliation of trees occurs. Stem cankers also occur on young branches.



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

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