

Anisogramma on birch

We are conducting a survey to determine the distribution of the fungus *Anisogramma virgultorum* on silver and downy birch in Scotland. The fungus causes black, elongated lesions on young shoots and deep fissures in the bark of older shoots and branches (right), associated with die-back. If you think this fungus may be present on birch near you, please contact us at the address below.



Bleeding cankers on horse chestnut

Although regarded as more common in the south of England, we have been receiving reports of bleeding cankers on horse chestnut in northern England and southern Scotland. Affected trees have bleeding tarry patches on the bark of the main stem or branches (near left), with crown thinning and eventual dieback (far left). The agent responsible is thought to be a species of *Phytophthora*.

Dieback and death of spruce

There have been a number of enquires concerning dieback and death of sitka spruce and Norway spruce in Scotland, which is particularly noticeable in the Deeside area. Affected trees occur singly or in small clusters (right) throughout plantations. The problem is being investigated, but evidence gathered so far suggests that drought during 2003 is the most likely cause of damage.



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

Blossom wilt and spur blight

Caused by the fungus *Monilinia laxa* (right), the disease has affected many flowering cherries, especially Cheal's Weeping, this spring. Initially the flowers shrivel and die, remaining on the tree. Then the leafy spur shoots become infected, with the leaves wilting rapidly. Finally, some shoots start to die back with profuse gumming from the infected tissue.



Poplar Scab

Black poplars in Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire have been suffering severe defoliation and shoot dieback due to this disease (left). Caused by the fungus *Pollaccia elegans*, the symptoms are dark brown spots and blotches on the leaves which then shrivel and fall, and girdling lesions on shoots and twigs. Information about possible cases of this disease would be welcome.

Guignardia Leaf Blotch

From July onwards, large dark red or brown blotches appear on horse chestnut leaves, often outlined by a yellow band (right). Caused by the fungus *Guignardia aeculi*, the disease may originate from North America. A close look at the blotches reveals tiny black pimples, which are the *Guignardia* fruit bodies. The disease can be unsightly, but has little overall effect on the health of the tree.



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