

## Summary of enquiries in 2007/2008

126 enquiries were received with 40 relating to privately owned amenity trees and 16 relating to publicly owned amenity trees. Enquiries also came from Forest Enterprise (15), private woodland via the Conservancies (11) and private woodland directly (20). A total of 13 enquiries concerned horse chestnut with bleeding cankers and/or foliar damage (right).



## Biotic damage

Agents of biotic damage (fungi or bacteria) included *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* and *Guignardia* on horse chestnut, Dutch elm disease occurring for the first time north of Inverness and needle diseases such as *Lophodermella conjuncta* on Scots pine. *Armillaria* root disease (right) was reported on several species, including *Sorbus* sp., beech and larch.



## Abiotic damage

Autumn frosts in 2007 caused extensive damage to Sitka spruce in south-west Scotland. Symptoms included browning and loss of 2007 needles (right) and occasional flagging of shoot tips. Frosts of -4.2 to -6.7°C were recorded at Eskdalemuir on three occasions in September and October 2007 while average temperatures remained above the threshold for shoot hardening.



## Summary of enquiries in 2007/2008

580 enquiries were received, with 365 concerning privately or publicly owned amenity trees, while 66 related to forest/ woodland trees including 13 from the Forestry Commission. The most frequently reported diseases were bleeding canker of horse chestnut, *Armillaria* and *Phytophthora* diseases (see right). There were 20 cases of the complex disease of oak (see below).



## Biotic and Abiotic damage

The first UK case of canker-rot of London plane caused by the fungus *Phellinus punctatus* was found in West Sussex on a mature tree (see right). Other significant diseases were shoot killing of Corsican pine by *Sphaeropsis sapinea* and widespread oak mildew, *Microspheera alphitoides*. On the abiotic side, the severe flooding in July 2007 may well cause dieback of trees during 2008. Once again, herbicide damage due to glyphosate was frequently recorded.



## Oak decline

Over the past two years more than 50 reports have been received indicating a resurgence of oak decline. Trees suffer crown dieback, and the worst affected have copious bleeding on the stem (right) and can die only 4-5 years after the onset of first symptoms. The condition may be partly drought mediated, but various root and bark attacking-pathogens may also play a significant role.

