

Summary of enquiries in 2008/2009

141 enquiries were received with 47 relating to privately owned amenity trees and 9 relating to publicly owned amenity trees. Enquiries also came from Forest Enterprise (17), private woodland via the Conservancies (11) and private woodland directly (10). Many enquiries concerned pine (29), spruce (13) and birch (right) (10).



Biotic damage

Numerous enquiries were received concerning needle diseases of conifers, such as *Lophodermium seeditiosum* on Scots pine, *Dothistroma septosporum* on lodgepole pine and Corsican pine, and *Rhizosphaeria kalkhoffii* causing needle cast on Grand Fir intended for Christmas trees (right). The latter appears to be a new host record for this fungus in Scotland.



Abiotic damage

Late spring frosts were responsible for damage to Nordman Fir Christmas trees in central Scotland and to young Sitka spruce in Yorkshire, resulting in flagging and mortality of current year shoots (right). In the case of the Sitka spruce, local weather records indicate that a three-day spell of frost around May 20th 2008 was sufficient to cause the damage.



Summary of enquiries in 2008/2009

581 enquiries were received, with 403 concerning privately or publicly owned amenity trees, while 91 related to forest/woodland trees. Enquiries included bleeding canker of horse chestnut, *Armillaria*, Norway spruce dieback and oak dieback (right). There was much public interest in bleeding canker, oak dieback and *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae*.



Biotic damage

More episodes of *Armillaria* infection have been reported over the last 2-3 years. This fungus forms white mycelial sheets under bark on root collars and stems. Affected species include young spruce and larch (2nd and 3rd rotation), drought debilitated oaks, and other amenity trees. *Armillaria* can be a primary pathogen as well as a secondary invader of already weakened trees.



Abiotic damage

In one notable case, the herbicide glyphosate was applied in 2007 to the cut stumps of sycamore to kill the stumps (which were adjacent to standing sycamores). In spring 2008 many of the standing sycamores failed to flush or produced sparse, tiny leaves (right). By late summer many of the standing trees were dead. Glyphosate applied to stumps can translocate across root grafts to cause damage to adjacent standing trees.

