

Scotland & Northern Britain

Summary of enquiries 2010/2011

147 enquiries were received with 62 relating to forests and woodlands, and 56 associated with parks and gardens. Enquiries came from Forestry Commission staff (55) as well as private individuals (64), concerning Scots pine (17), Sitka spruce (11) Lawson cypress (10) and juniper (below). Damaging agents included six different species of *Phytophthora*, red band needle blight and larch canker.



Biotic damage

A number of *Phytophthora* species caused damage to trees in Scotland this year, most notably the quarantine pathogen *Phytophthora lateralis* killing Lawson cypress (below). This pathogen, which has never been previously recorded in the UK, attacks the roots causing basal lesions (below). *Phytophthora ramorum*, now confirmed on larch in Scotland, was also found infecting Lawson cypress at the same site as the *P. lateralis* outbreak.



Abiotic damage

Several conifer species suffered winter injury following the exceptionally cold winter of 2009/10. Scots pine was the species most affected, with widespread foliage browning reported on trees of all ages. This damage was most visible during the early summer (below). Foliage browning due to winter injury was also reported on Noble fir and Leyland cypress.



Contact:

Sarah Green
sarah.green@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/pathology

England & Wales

Summary of enquiries 2010/2011

681 enquiries were received; 334 for privately or publicly owned amenity trees and 112 relating to forest/woodland trees (including 30 from the Forestry Commission). There were 116 cases of suspected or confirmed acute oak dieback and 39 cases of horse chestnut bleeding canker. Other frequently reported damaging agents were *Armillaria* and various decay fungi (below).



Contact:

David Rose
david.rose@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/pathology

Biotic damage

A number of cases of larch canker, *Lachnellula willkommii*, were found on both Japanese and European larch during the surveys looking for evidence of *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch plantations. This disease is most severe on European larch and causes resinous cankers on twigs, branches and stems. The small cup-shaped fruit-bodies usually develop on the surface of the canker (below).



Abiotic damage

Many garden trees, such as Cordylines, Monterey cypress and some *Arbutus* species, were damaged by the severe winter cold. Amongst the native tree species, browning of yew needles by low temperatures was found at a number of locations (below). One case of branch dieback in yew was thought at first to be due to winter cold but was found to be caused by bark stripping by squirrels.

