

## Scotland & Northern Britain

### *Chalara* dieback of ash

After being highlighted in last Autumn's edition of "Path News", the first instances of ash dieback due to infection by the fungal pathogen *Chalara fraxinea* have been recorded in both England and Scotland this year. To date, the disease has only been detected in nursery stock and recently-planted trees, and cases of poor health in young ash should therefore be investigated carefully. However, recent dieback of mature trees should not be overlooked, particularly if recently-planted ash are located nearby.



### *Elatobium* on spruce

Defoliation of Sitka spruce (below left) and Norway spruce has been reported frequently this year. The culprit is the green spruce aphid, *Elatobium abietinum*, which attacks mature needles during the spring and early summer. Attacked needles initially show characteristic yellow bands and then become completely discoloured (below right) and fall. Damage is particularly severe this year because of the mild winter 2011-2012. Typically, *Elatobium* attack does not cause mortality, and affected trees should recover.



### Defoliation of cherry

The wet summer of 2012 has incited widespread defoliation of cherry (below left). Affected trees have circular leaf spots (below right) which may fall out leaving a 'shot-hole' effect. There are a number of agents that may be responsible for such symptoms, a bacterial pathogen called *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *morsprunorum* and two fungal pathogens; *Blumeriella* and *Stigmina*. Leaf damage is temporary and affected trees should flush normally next year.



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## England & Wales

### Leaf spot of sycamore

The fungus *Cristulariella depraedans* causes grey spots on the green leaves of sycamore, giving the impression that it has been covered with flecks of paint. It occurs infrequently but there are epidemic years when it becomes very widespread. Its development is favoured by cool wet summers so it is no surprise that this year has been one of the epidemic years. Though it can cause moderate defoliation this occurs late in the season so does not result in serious damage.



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### Dieback and defoliation of Atlantic cedar

A number of cases of needle browning and premature fall have been reported this year, mainly from the west of England and Wales. Investigations have found needle damage by the cedar aphid, *Cedrobium lapportei*, and shoot and branch killing by the fungus *Phacidium coniferarum* have been widespread. Some trees have been so badly defoliated that they have given the appearance of being dead. Most, if not all, these trees will survive though with variable amounts of dieback.



### Defoliation of rowan

Moderate to severe infections of scab, *Venturia iaequalis aucupariae*, have occurred on many rowans this year. In the worst cases there has been almost complete defoliation. Fruiting has also been affected with infected fruits falling prematurely. However, the lack of fruits is mainly due to poor pollination due to the cold wet weather at the time of flowering. The damage, though startling in appearance, will not cause long-term damage to the affected trees.

