

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service

Plant Pathology, Forestry & Entomology Fact Sheet PPFS-OR-W-30 FORFS-21-02 ENTfact-460

Common Problems of Common Trees — An Index —

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INTRODUCTION

Trees are an important part of landscapes and woodlands. However, trees may experience a wide range of issues including disease, insects, and abiotic disorders. This publication includes the most frequently observed problems of common trees in Kentucky listed in alphabetical order (not necessarily in order of importance). Contact a local County Extension Agent for assistance with diagnosing and managing these and other problems.

Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Arborvitae Thuja	 Fungal cankers (Botryosphaeria, Cytospora, Seiridium, etc.) Pestalotiopsis needle & tip blight Phytophthora root rot 	 Bagworm 	• Winter drying	 Kabatina tip blight Minute juniper scale Phomopsis tip blight Spider mites



GYMNOSPORANGIUM (CEDAR-HAWTHORN) RUST

JAPANESE BEETLE

LEAF SCORCH DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS (DROUGHT)

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Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Ash Fraxinus	AnthracnoseAsh heart rot	 Ash flower gall Emerald ash borer 		 Aphids Ash leaf spot Botryosphaeria canker Cercospora leaf blight
Cherry (flowering) Prunus	 Bacterial canker Black knot Shothole (Blumeriella leaf spot) 	 Eastern tent caterpillar Japanese beetle 		 Bacterial leaf spot Brown marmorated stink bug Cankerworms Lecanium scale Peachtree & lesser peachtree borer Perennial canker
Cherry laurel Prunus	 Bacterial leaf spot Phytophthora root rot 	 Eastern tent caterpillar Shothole borers Spider mites 	Cold injury	 Botryosphaeria canker/twig blight Peachtree borer
Crabapple Malus	 Apple scab Botryosphaeria (frogeye) leaf spot Fire blight 	 Eastern tent caterpillar Fall webworm 		 Gymnosporangium rusts (cedar- apple rust, cedar-hawthorn rust) Japanese beetle
Cypress (Leyland, False) ^{Chamaecyparis}	 Phytophthora root rot Seiridium canker 	 Bagworm Juniper scale 	 Cold injury Winter drying 	 Botryosphaeria canker Spider mites
Dogwood Cornus	 Dogwood (Septoria) leaf spot Powdery mildew Spot anthracnose 	 Dogwood borer Oystershell scale 	 Heat stress High pH Wet feet / heavy soil 	 Aphids Dogwood anthracnose Dogwood sawflies Various scale insects
Elm Ulmus	 Dutch elm disease Elm yellows 	 Elm bark beetles (multiple species) European elm flea weevil Japanese beetle 		 Anthracnose Bacterial leaf scorch Black spot Botryosphaeria canker
Hawthorn Crataegus	 Gymnosporangium rusts (cedar-hawthorn rust, cedar-quince rust) 	 Fall webworm Hawthorn lacebug Hawthorn leaf miner 		 Entomosporium leaf spot Fire blight Leaf miners
Hemlock Tsuga		 Elongate hemlock scale Hemlock woolly adelgid 	 Heat stress High soil pH Wet feet / heavy soil 	 Phytophthora root rot Rosellinia blight Spider mites
Hickory & Pecan Carya	Anthracnose	 Fall webworm Redhumped caterpillar Stink bugs 		 Downy leaf spot Gnomonia leaf spot Pecan scab Pecan weevil Petiole borer Phylloxera Twig girdlers

Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Holly Ilex	Black root rot	 Cottony camellia scale Holly leafminers 	 Wet feet Winter drying 	 Black vine weevil Holly pit scale Holly scale Phytophthora root rot Pythium root rot Southern red mite
Juniper Juniperus	 Gymnosporangium rusts (cedar-apple rust, cedar-quince rust) Kabatina twig blight Phomopsis tip blight 	Bagworm		 Botryosphaeria canker Minute juniper scale Spruce spider mite Phytophthora root rot
Locust (Black & Honey) Gleditsia	 Cracked cap polypore 	 Locust leafminer Locust borer 		 Cercospora leaf spot Powdery mildew Scale insect Spider mites Thyronectria canker Verticillium wilt
Magnolia Magnolia		 Magnolia scale Oleander scale Yellow poplar weevil 	 Winter injury (southern magnolia) 	 Botryosphaeria canker Phomopsis leaf spot Powdery mildew Thrips Verticillium wilt
Maple Acer	 Anthracnose Bacterial leaf scorch Eutypella canker Maple leaf blister Nectria canker Tar spot Verticillium wilt 	 Fall webworm Gloomy scale Maple gall makers 	• Sunscald (trunk injury)	 Cankerworms Cottony maple scale Flatheaded appletree borer Green striped maple worm Maple petiole borer Oystershell scale Phyllosticta leaf spot Pigeon tremex Potato leafhopper
Oak Quercus		 Oak galls (horned oak gall, gouty oak gall, oak apple gall, jumping oak gall) Oak shothole borer Skeletonizers (shingle oak skeletonizer) 	 Chlorosis Herbicide damage Oak decline 	 Anthracnose Fall webworm Kermes scale Oak lecanium scale Obscure scale Oak wilt disease is present in nearby states & sudden oak death occurs on the west coast, but neither disease is an issue in KY as of this printing.
Pear (Flowering) Pyrus calleryana	• Fire blight	 Eastern tent caterpillar Fall webworm Thrips 		 Gymnosporangium rusts (cedar- apple rust, cedar-quince rust) Highly invasive in KY; avoid planting new trees & remove seedlings to prevent spread.

Host	Diseases	Insects	Abiotic	Other Lesser Problems
Pine Pinus	 Diplodia tip blight Dothistroma needle blight 	Pine sawflies	• White pine decline / environmental stress ¹	 Needle scale Phytophthora root rot (plantings in wet sites) Southern pine beetle White pine root decline Zimmerman pine moth
Redbud Cercis	• Verticillium wilt	 Brown marmorated stink bug 	 Herbicide damage 	 Anthracnose Botryosphaeria canker Cercospora leaf spot Eriophyid mite Spider mite
Sassafras Sassafras	Armillaria root rotLaurel wilt	 Ambrosia beetle 		 Nectria canker
Spruce Picea	 Dothistroma needle blight Phytophthora root rot Rhizosphaera needle 	 Spruce spider mite 	 Drought stress Heat stress Wet feet 	 Cytospora canker Environmental stress¹ Gall makers Pine needle scale Winter drying
Sycamore Platanus	 Anthracnose 	 Lacebug 		Bacterial leaf scorchPowdery mildew
Tulip tree/Yellow poplar Liriodendron	• Verticillium wilt	 Tuliptree scale Yellow poplar weevil 	 Abiotic leaf scorch 	 Powdery mildew
Walnut Juglans	• Walnut blight	• Fall webworm	• Soil conditions (pH, moisture)	 Anthracnose Armillaria root rot Phytophthora root rot Thousand cankers disease is present in neighboring states; as of this printing, it has not been detected in KY.
Potential Problems that could affect all tree species	 Fungal tip dieback & canker diseases enhanced by stress Root & heart rots 	 Bagworm Caterpillars (yellow necked caterpillars, tussock moths, etc.) Cicada damage Fall webworm Japanese beetle Scales 	 Environmental stress¹ Improper planting practices² Transplant shock 	 Winter damage; frost & freeze injury

¹ Environmental stresses can include drought, wet soil, weather extremes, etc.

² Improper planting practices can include unfavorable planting site, inadequte site preparation, incorrect planting depth (either too deep or too shallow), planting hole too small, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Department of Entomology Website https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/landscape
- Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Website https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/extension-home
- Department of Horticulture Website https://www.uky.edu/hort/home-horticulture
- Department of Plant Pathology Website http://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications
- Tree Health Website https://tree-health.ca.uky.edu/

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