

Chestnut Blight

(*Cryphonectria parasitica*)



Stem girdling causing branch wilting. Late summer or autumn is the best time to see fresh wilting. Typically the leaves on branches killed by the blight have not dropped and can still be seen even after the fall of leaves.



Canker symptoms on a young stem. Cankers can be seen throughout the whole year but they may be easier to see during the winter when the trees have lost their leaves.



Epicormic shooting below canker are a visible sign that the stem has been completely girdled by chestnut blight.



Removal of the outer bark at the edge of cankers can reveal fans of mycelium produced by the blight fungus.



Orange sporulation in bark cracks. In larger trees with decline symptoms, the bark of the trunk should be checked for fruiting bodies.



Orange tendrils of spores protruding from bark. Fruiting bodies are typically formed in bark cracks on the trunk and branches.

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(*Cryphonectria parasitica*)

Courtesy of D. Rigling



Active lesion on a young chestnut stem, visible due to the altered colour of the bark.



Basal lesion with outer bark removed showing dying inner bark. Death of the main stem may occur in the growing season followed by regrowth from the grafted rootstock.



Canker and bark splitting at the base of a young tree symptomatic of bark death.

Courtesy of D. Rigling



Canker resulting from infection via the graft wound. Wounds caused by grafting or other physical damage are entry points for the pathogen.



Smaller plants in new plantings can be surveyed for cankers throughout the year and cankers can often be seen before wilting symptoms occur.



Heavily cankered stem below the graft point. Orange pin-head sized fruiting bodies can be seen below the graft wound.