

Pest Alert: *Candidatus Phytoplasma fragariae* on Hazel (*Corylus*)

Fig 1. Early symptoms of *Ca. Phytoplasma fragariae*. © Crown Copyright



Fig 2. Leaf showing 'horse shoe' necrosis. Photo courtesy of Helen Carter, Forestry Commission England

- An outbreak of *Ca. Phytoplasma fragariae* was found to be causing **extensive death of hazel** at two sites in Surrey (2014).
- It is thought to have been introduced on clonally propagated plants of hazel (*Corylus*) and may have been introduced to other sites by this pathway.
- At known sites, the disease does not currently appear to be spreading, perhaps because the insect vector is absent from the UK. **Symptoms begin with yellowing of leaves and profleration of branches** (Figure 1).
- In the late summer and autumn, **'horse shoe' necrosis** becomes apparent on leaves – this can either be at the **top of the leaf**, as shown in Figure 2, or may appear **halfway down the leaf**.
- Trees continue to decline, showing very **little leaf growth**, sometimes showing **vertical cracks** in the trunk or main branches, and eventually die.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

For **England and Wales**, contact your local **APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector** or the **PHSI Headquarters**, York.

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For **Scotland**, contact the **Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:**

Agricultural crops contact the local RPID officer: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts>

For non-agricultural crops, email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For **Northern Ireland**, contact the **DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:**

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>

For finds in the wider environment:

In GB, please use Tree Alert: <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

For NI, please use TreeCheck: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-treecheck>