

Tree Diseases

Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut

Bleeding canker can be fatal for Horse Chestnuts and involves fungal canker called *Phytophthora cactorum* and *P.Citocloa*, which were first seen in the UK in the 1960's. *Pseudomonas syringae pv aesculi*, a bacterial and more aggressive bleeding canker, was first identified in 2005/06 and is more aggressive in its attack on Horse Chestnuts.

Signs of bleeding canker include dark areas on the main stem, dying or flaking bark, a black liquid or stain that appears on the bark, dying limbs and eventually the possible death of the whole tree. Canker diseases tend to attack trees already under stress but will not necessarily attack every tree within an area. In Milton Keynes we have many examples where one tree is under attack whilst those surrounding it are not. Some trees have been known to recover but trees that are badly affected should be removed.

Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner moth (*Cameraria ohridella*)

Every year this pest principally causes severe damage to the foliage of the Horse Chestnut, leading to disfigurement of the leaves and defoliation (loss of leaves) before normal leaf fall.

This pest was first observed in northern Greece in late 1985 and then in the UK (Wimbledon Common) in 2002. Since that time it has progressively moved through the country. Initially the burrowing moth larvae produce large red/brown blotches that tend to be concentrated at the tips and margins of the leaflets, superficially resembling leaf mines. When there are large numbers of them the larvae can destroy most of the leaf and its tissues. The damage can usually be seen in profusion from mid-July onwards.

Leaf Blotch

Leaf Blotch Damage is caused by the fungus *Guignardia Aesculi* which causes partial death of the leaves and gives them a brown/yellow blotch (not dissimilar to Leaf Miner moth damage) which can almost extend to the whole leaf. Although common this fungus is not as widespread as the Leaf Miner moth.

Whilst both the Leaf Miner moth and Leaf Blotch disfigure leaves, they do not actually directly kill the tree, but do contribute to putting the tree under stress leaving it susceptible to more lethal pathogens.

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