

Black canker of willow

Background of the detection

Black canker of willow (*Glomerella miyabeana*), was confirmed on willow trees in NSW and ACT in March 2006. The disease has since been identified on willow trees in Tasmania and Victoria.

The disease was detected as part of a survey for biocontrol agents for willow and is believed to have been present in Australia for many years.

Symptoms

Black canker is an aggressive pathogen of willows, causing black cankers on shoots and lesions on the leaves. Leaves may wilt and shrivel up.

Damage is unlikely to be severe or long-lasting except following persistent wet weather during the growing season. Repeated defoliation and shoot girdling may seriously affect susceptible trees.

The pathogen also has the potential to exist as a minor fruit rot on apple, nashi and strawberry, but probably only when these fruit crops are growing in close association with infected willows.

Spread of black canker

Black Canker is spread by rain and wind activity, which disperses the spores from the leaves and stems.

Control of black canker

Control on ornamental trees consists mainly of pruning out and destroying diseased twigs and branches during the dormant season to reduce inoculum and further spread of the disease.

The disease is likely to be widespread in Australia. Eradication is therefore not considered to be practical.

Further Information

http://www.ppath.cas.psu.edu/EXTENSION/PLANT_DISEASE/willow.html

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/diagnostics/maintrees.html/>

<http://plantpathology.uark.edu/Number12-2006.pdf>

http://www.daff.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/171941/ppnmay06.pdf



Black canker symptoms on a willow twig.

To report suspect pests and diseases, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline:

1 800 084 881

For further information, visit the Plant Standards web page:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb