

Diagnosing the Cause of Damage to Trees

Arboricultural Advisory Helpline 09065 161147

and Information Service Calls to the Helpline charged at £1.50 per min.

We provide a service for diagnosing the cause of ill health in or damage to trees and shrubs. If you wish to make use of this service please complete the Damage diagnosis form below, as fully as possible, and send it to us, together with samples and with either the appropriate remittance or an official order. The form may be downloaded. If you would like to discuss the problem first, please call the Tree Helpline 09065 161147.

General guidance on collecting samples: The samples you send should, if possible, represent all stages of the symptoms (i.e. healthy to dead as appropriate). If there are several symptoms, collect samples of each. Take photographs as they can be helpful, as can a sketch of the location of the affected plant(s) in relation to other trees, shrubs, buildings, roads or services.

Small trees and shrubs: If trees or shrubs are small enough, lift them complete with their root system.

Root, stem and branch: Where possible, specimens should include the junction between the live and dead bark. Check this by cutting into the bark ñ the inner bark is whitish or pinkish when alive and brownish or blackish when dead.

Decayed wood: Samples of decayed wood should include the zone between decayed and sound wood.

Foliage: Collect leaves that are showing symptoms with sections of shoot still attached.

General guidance on packaging samples: Pack foliage, woody material and hard fungal fruit bodies separately in sealed polythene bags. Keep specimens from different trees/shrubs separate. If necessary put them into a padded envelope. Fleshy fungal fruit bodies should be put into a stout cardboard box packed with dry material. Do not use polythene bags as the enclosed fruit bodies will putrefy quickly. Put live insects in rigid, escape proof, containers with a small amount of soft tissue packing. Ensure that the tops are taped on.

General guidance on despatching samples: Send all samples at the beginning of the week either by courier or first class post to ensure that they arrive in the best possible condition for examination.

Note: It may not always be practical to send samples and a site visit may then be more appropriate.

Damage Diagnosis Charges

Examination of specimens and production of a brief report outlining probable cause significance, and appropriate treatment (if any)	£30 + VAT (£35.25)
Identification of fungal fruit bodies	£30 + VAT (£35.25)
Culturing to identify pathogen (per specimen)	£80 + VAT (£94.00)
Site Visit (per Hour)	£90 + VAT

Your Details

Name:
Organisation:
Department:
Address
.....
Post Code..... Telephone number.....
Fax number..... Date specimens collected.....

Please fill in the following to help us to complete the diagnosis

Tree/Shrub Details

Common name
Scientific name
Age..... Height Spread
Planting or sowing date

Site Details

Tick as appropriate :

Location :	Forest/Wood	Hedge	Nursery	Parkland	Street
	Paving	Open soil	Garden	if garden is it planted in Lawn	
Soil Texture :	Clay	Loam	Sand	Silt	
	Peat	Gravel	Unknown		
Drainage :	Good	Poor	Waterlogged	Unknown	
Reaction :	Acidic	Neutral	Alkaline	Unknown	
Exposure :	Sheltered	Exposed	Other		

Previous land use.....
Ground vegetation.....
Site changes in past 2 years.....
Problem Details (Use diagrams or sketches if appropriate)
Proportion of planting or number of trees/shrubs affected
Development of symptoms (all at once; progressive).....
Date first noticed
Are the symptoms still developing (Leaves changing colour/ Spreading to new plants) **Yes/No**
Is there similar damage to other species at other sites in the area; **Yes/No**
Description of symptoms
.....
Description of fungal fruit bodies or insects.....
.....
Distribution of symptoms on individual
.....
Position of affected tree(s) in relation to other trees/shrubs
.....
Details of other plants that have died or been removed
.....
Have chemicals or fertilisers been used in the last year? **Yes/No**
If yes please give details:
.....
Have any remedial treatments been carried out for the suspected problems? **Yes/No**
If yes please give details:.....
.....

Date:

Please send this, remittance and accompanying specimens to:
AAIS, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH