

Cypress Canker *Seiridium* Species

Cypress canker is a serious fungal disease that affects certain coniferous species.

This pathogen interferes with the trees vascular system eventually causing stem, branch and eventual tree death, drought will also exacerbate the situation.

Seiridium canker is a weak pathogen belonging to mycological group *Coelomycetes* the disease caused by one of three species, *S.cardinale*, *S. unicorne* or *S.cupressi*.

Fruiting bodies found on infected trees release airborne *spores* that disperse widely, transmission through physical injury caused by insects or birds creates entry points, and poor hygiene during trimming gives the pathogen direct vascular access.

As the pathogen develops it girdles the phloem (bark) tissue, initial indicators are a loss of gloss and a dull appearance in new and established growth and this is followed by needle yellowing.

As the disease spreads inwards it attacks the cambial tissue producing symptoms like tip or branch dieback and stem lesions, trunks and branches typically have oozing resin and sunken areas of bark often have powdery brown deposits.



Typical early and advanced symptoms are often seen on the same tree, branch dieback and bleeding stem lesions are a response to the pathogen attacking the cambial tissue, this causes the eventual girdling or ringbarking of branches as seen in the images.



Close up of bleeding resin on stem lesion and vascular discoloration beneath the bark of a lesion.

Susceptible species and cultivars.

- *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress)
- *Chaemaecyparis lawsoniana* – various cultivars
- *Cupressocyparis leylandii* X

Cultivars

- “Leighton Green’
- “Naylor’s Blue’
- “Castlewellan Gold’
- *Cupressus lusitanica*
- *Cupressus sempervirens* ‘Swanes Golden’ and other cultivars
- *Cupressus torulosa*

Less susceptible:

- *Cupressus arizonica* (Arizona cypress)
- *Calocedrus decurrens*
- *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar)
- *T. occidentalis*

- *Juniperus virginiana*

Treatments Methods available

Treating this disease is no simple matter it is dependent on early diagnosis plus applying the correct chemistry; multiple applications are the focus in a successful treatment program.

Methods focus on either stem injection or Airblast as the means of delivery; both have proven to be very successful in suppressing and curing this disorder.

Successful control relies on using the correct chemistry ratio of solutes too penetrate the leaf and stem tissue, active ingredients all have high systemicity within plant tissue, active components need to exhibit either phloem or xylem mobility .



Air blasting a one kilometer avenue of mature Monterey cypress, located at Woori Yallock Yarra Valley Victoria. Our treatment program successfully arrested disease spread and restored tree health; no more treatments were required in 2007 despite the drought.



Close ups of stem recovery from the first treatment on February 1st 2006 dieback spread has ceased, new and healthy growth is evident, treated again on October 4th & November 16th 2006, trees are still healthy and still free of disease on November 23rd 2009, an Airblast re-treatment is scheduled for October 2010.

If not treated this disease would have spread causing most if not all of the trees to die. This whole exercise has saved the client thousands of dollars in removal costs while maintaining a valuable amenity asset.

For further information on tree diseases click on Home Page link to

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