



We Need Your Help

Look for Signs of *Beech Leaf Disease*

While the causal agent has yet to be identified, a disease generically referred to as beech leaf disease (BLD) has been contributing to the decline and mortality of American beech across northeastern Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania. It has also been found in Chautauqua County in southwestern New York and along the north shore of Lake Erie in Ontario. BLD affects American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), European beech (*F. sylvatica*), Oriental beech (*F. orientalis*), and possibly Chinese beech (*F. engleriana*) and Korean beech (*F. crenata*). Very early symptoms include dark striped bands between lateral veins of leaves and reduced leaf size. As symptoms progress, aborted buds, reduced leaf production, and premature leaf drop lead to an overall reduction in canopy cover, ultimately resulting in death of sapling-sized trees within 2-5 years.



Top: Early defoliation or premature leaf drop. (Courtesy photo by John Pogacnik)

Left: Raised striped bands between lateral veins of leaves. (Courtesy photo by Carrie Ewing)

Right: Dark striped bands between lateral veins of leaves. (Courtesy photo by Tom Macy)

Bottom: Advanced stages of infection, reduced leaf size. (Courtesy photo by John Pogacnik)



Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

If you observe symptoms of infection by BLD, please contact your local forest health specialist, State Extension Service, or State Departments of Agriculture and Forestry.