

BRONZE LEAF DISEASE

Bronze leaf disease is caused by a fungus that enters the tree through the leaves and then moves into the branches. Eventually the fungus will result in branch die back and possible death of the tree. Tower poplar and Swedish columnar aspen are known to be highly susceptible to the fungus.



Symptoms of the fungal infection first appear mid-summer. Infected leaves are yellowish, orange-brown or reddish-brown on the outside edges. As the season progresses the discoloration moves inward toward the leaf base. The veins and leaf stalk of the leaf may remain green as the infection progresses. Near the end of the season infected leaves become bronzed. Leaves that exhibit signs of infection usually remain attached to the tree throughout the winter.

There are no registered chemical controls for this infection. Pruning out dead branches and branches with diseased leaves will help reduce the spread of the fungus. Diseased material needs to be disposed of either through burying or burning. Performing regular tree maintenance as well as thinning trees to improve air circulation will help to keep trees healthy. If you have a tree that is exhibiting the above symptoms a sample may be brought to the Operations center, attention Parks, at 1112 North Railway Street, Okotoks, Alberta. For more information, contact the Urban Forester at 403-938-8958.