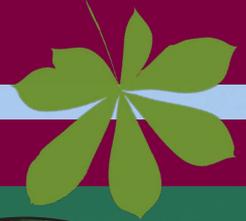


Tree Pest and Disease Factsheet: Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)



What to look out for on Horse Chestnut

1. Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*)

Key facts

- Leaf mining moth native to Southern Europe, introduced to the UK
- Now widespread across England, Wales and southern Scotland
- Heavily infested trees can lose their leaves early, but research has shown that this has little effect on the growth rate or health of trees

Key symptoms

- Caterpillars feed on leaves from June onwards, forming "leaf mines"
- Leaf mines are blotchy, first white, then turning brown/orange
- Leaves dry up, turn brown and can drop early in autumn
- There are several **lookalike** pests and diseases (see photos below)



leaf mine symptoms

What to do if you suspect horse chestnut leaf miner is on your site

- The Forestry Commission encourage TreeAlert reports of the pest north of Leicester
- Burying or burning the fallen leaves of infested trees in autumn can reduce pest build up on trees in isolated settings

from left to right:

- (1) leaf mine symptoms;
- (2) leaf miner moth closeup;
- lookalikes:**
- (3) *Guignardia* leaf blotch;
- (4) squirrel damage



2. Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker

Key facts

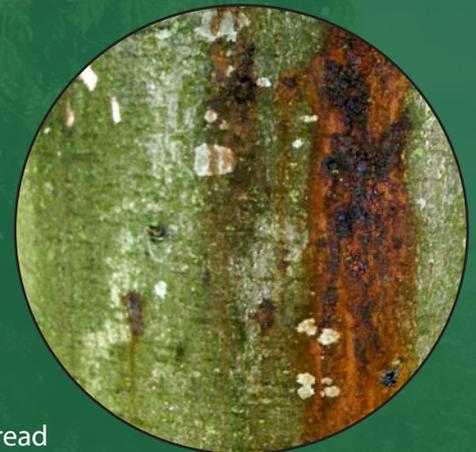
- Caused by at least two different pathogens
- Widespread across the UK on all ages of tree

Key symptoms

- Bleeding cankers: cracks in the bark that ooze black/brown/orange fluid
- Cankers can occur on the trunk or branches

What to do if you suspect bleeding canker on your site

- Report your sighting via TreeAlert (see below)
- Trees can recover so removal is unnecessary unless they pose a safety hazard
- Infected branches can be removed and incinerated on site to slow disease spread



Pest and Disease Reporting

- If you spot a pest or disease, report your concerns through the Forestry Commission's online reporting tool TreeAlert at treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk
- Make sure you clean boots and equipment before and after site visits, to remove any mud and debris that can transmit pests and diseases

