

# Tree Pest and Disease Factsheet: Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)



## What to look out for on Sweet Chestnut

### 1. Sweet Chestnut Blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*)

#### Key facts

- Fungal disease introduced from Asia into Europe
- First identified in the UK in 2011
- Impacts sweet chestnut, not horse chestnut trees

#### Key symptoms

- Orange-coloured cankers (areas of dead bark) on smooth bark
- Blister-like cracks on the tree's bark as the infection progresses
- Orange fruiting bodies of the fungus on the bark
- Leaf wilting above the cankers
- New shoots are produced below the area of dead bark

#### What to do if you suspect chestnut blight on your site

- Report your sighting immediately to the Forestry Commission using TreeAlert (see below)
- To prevent disease spread, the movement of infected plants, bark or wood is prohibited



canker on bark



split bark and new shoots



fruiting bodies on bark



split bark

### 2. Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*)

#### Key facts and symptoms

- Recently introduced to the UK, native to China
- Causes galls (swellings) on buds, leaves, and leaf stalks that can reduce tree growth over time
- Report sightings via TreeAlert
- Do not remove any material from affected sites, to prevent disease spread



leaf galls in summer (above) and autumn (below)

### 3. *Phytophthora ramorum*

#### Key facts and symptoms

- Fungus-like organism that affects many plant and tree species, such as rhododendron, larch and sweet chestnut
- Native to Asia
- Symptoms include bark lesions, leaf wilting/blackening, canopy dieback and tree death
- Report sightings via TreeAlert



leaf wilting

## 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.forestryresearch.gov.uk](http://treealert.forestryresearch.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

