

Beech leaf disease nematode (*Litylenchus crenatae*)

A damaging nematode pest of beech trees.

It is likely to spread internationally through the trade of planting material. Local spread is via wind and insect / bird vectors.

Native to **Japan** - where it causes little damage to native beech. Now also found in **Canada and the USA** - where it causes significant damage to American and European beech.

Symptoms seen are:

- dark bands between leaf veins
- stunted leaves with darkened, crinkled and leathery texture
- host decline, canopy reduction and tree death

Look out for distinctive banding patterns in leaves.

The **nematode** itself **will not be visible** and requires **laboratory identification**.

If you suspect it, report it by visiting <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/> or use the QR code.



Dark banding symptom (American beech) © Matthew Borden, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories & Arboretum



Stunted leaf damage (European beech) © Matthew Borden, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bugwood.org



Canopy damage of American beech © Andrew Loyd & Sean Henry, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories & Arboretum



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.dae-ri.gov.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba