

# Pest Alert: *Candidatus Phytoplasma fragariae* on Hazel (*Corylus*)

**Fig 1.** Early symptoms of *Ca. Phytoplasma fragariae*. © Crown Copyright



**Fig 2.** Leaf showing 'horse shoe' necrosis. Photo courtesy of Helen Carter, Forestry Commission England

- An outbreak of *Ca. Phytoplasma fragariae* was found to be causing **extensive death of hazel** at two sites in Surrey (2014).
- It is thought to have been introduced on clonally propagated plants of hazel (*Corylus*) and may have been introduced to other sites by this pathway.
- At known sites, the disease does not currently appear to be spreading, perhaps because the insect vector is absent from the UK. **Symptoms begin with yellowing of leaves and profleration of branches** (Figure 1).
- In the late summer and autumn, **'horse shoe' necrosis** becomes apparent on leaves – this can either be at the **top of the leaf**, as shown in Figure 2, or may appear **halfway down the leaf**.
- Trees continue to decline, showing very **little leaf growth**, sometimes showing **vertical cracks** in the trunk or main branches, and eventually die.

**If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).**

**For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:**

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk)

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

**For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:**

Email: [hort.marketing@gov.scot](mailto:hort.marketing@gov.scot)

Web: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth>

**For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:**

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: [planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Web: [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**For finds in the wider environment:**

<https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>