



Tree Health Guide for Herbalists

AND MEDICINAL PLANT USERS OF ALL KINDS ♥

By Erin LaFaive

Cultural

- ♥ Girdling roots caused by improper planting.
- ♥ Lawn mower/ weed whipper damage
- ♥ Improper use of mulch (donut NOT volcano)
- ♥ Root flare should be evident

Diseases

- ♥ Mushrooms growing on bark indicate rotting taking place under the bark.
- ♥ Cankers enter through wounds.
- ♥ Leaf blights are usually cosmetic issues.
- ♥ Verticillium wilt mainly a problem on maples and catalpa trees. Less often - barberry and basswood. Evergreens aren't bothered by this pathogen.

Pests

- ♥ Gall mites are small bumps on the leaf usually red or green. These are caused by an insect and are usually cosmetic. Only becomes a problem if the tree is heavily infested year after year and has other stress factors.
- ♥ Insects are only an issue if they're in large numbers and for a long period of time.

Physiological

- ♥ Fruits/nut not produced in mass every year.
- ♥ Growing stress not evident that year, sometimes it's 2-3 years after the initial stress event
- ♥ Chlorosis -nutrient deficiency
- ♥ Slim flux
- ♥ Thinning crown is a sign tree is having a hard time getting water to the top
- ♥ What to look for to determine a tree in stress versus. "normal" behavior (shedding, drooping branches, etc.)