

Canker stain of plane

A guide to prevention

Canker stain of plane is not yet in the UK.
It is a human-assisted pathogen – don't be the one to assist it.

! TREE OFFICERS/MANAGERS

Ensure that your contractor/contract manager is committed to biosecurity and understands the potential consequences of Canker stain of plane (*Ceratocystis platani*) reaching the UK.

! CONTRACTORS

Ensure that your employees are aware of this information. Always disinfect kit and take exceptional care if working abroad and then returning to the UK.

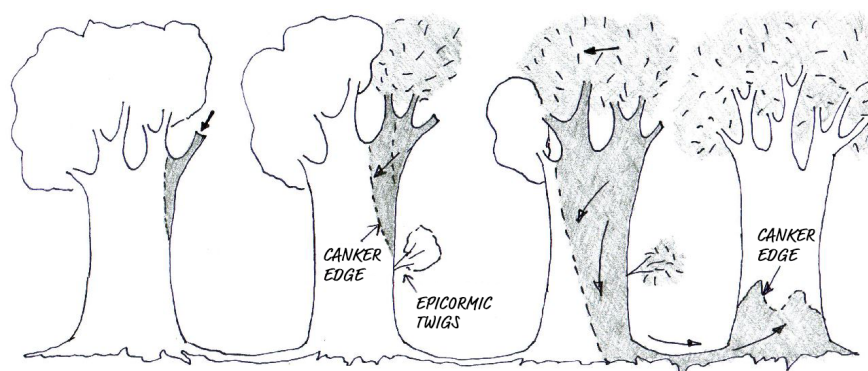


Ceratocystis platani (Canker stain of plane, or CSP) is one of the most significant threats facing London's trees. This pathogen has spread through much of mainland Europe and has been responsible for the death and removal of hundreds of thousands of planes.

In 2014 the European Union awarded the UK Protected Zone Status for *Ceratocystis*, establishing controls around importing plane saplings from countries which are not free of CSP. This is a positive step but does not account for the most likely entry point of CSP into the UK: contaminated equipment.

In 1986 CSP was confirmed as being present in Switzerland; it is believed that it entered the country via a tree surgeon who worked first on infected planes in Italy and then uninfected planes in Switzerland without disinfecting their equipment. **We must avoid this happening in the UK.**

As a comparison, Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) was imported to the UK on an infected sapling in 2005. Since then it has spread across London and the south east of the UK and has cost millions of pounds to control/contain. We must learn from these experiences.



- FROM AN INFECTED WOUND
THE CANOPY DESICCATES
BRANCH-TO-BRANCH
- FROM A ROOT GRAFT
THE CANOPY DESICCATES
SUDDENLY

Always disinfect your tools and equipment



Don't give
pests and
diseases
an easy ride



If you think you have spotted a case of this disease you must report it through

the Tree Alert online form at:
forestry.gov.uk/treealert

Canker stain of plane can be easily spread by human activity such as tree felling and pruning. We can all help to prevent its spread by practising good biosecurity.

More information

- For more about *Ceratocystis*: **www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/canker-stain-of-plane**
- For more about *Keep it Clean*: **www.forestry.gov.uk/england-keepitclean**
- For the TreeAlert reporting system: **www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert**
- For tips on disinfecting equipment: **www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/12144#tab1**
- For information about what to do in the event of an outbreak see the FC *Ceratocystis* contingency plan and the LTOA guidance document *Canker stain of plane – Dealing with an outbreak*: **www.ltoa.org.uk/images/canker_stain_of_plane-outbreak.pdf**

The definitive UK *Ceratocystis* text *Detecting and identifying canker stain of plane*, by Lucio Montecchio; revised and updated by Neville Fay and John Parker, is available from the LTOA: **www.ltoa.org.uk** or Treeworks Environmental Practice: **www.treeworks.co.uk**

Images courtesy of Lucio Montecchio, University of Padua – De Rebus Plantarum: www.drp.bio/en
Keep it Clean graphics reproduced from the Forestry Commission: www.forestry.gov.uk



Think kit

Clean and disinfect any equipment and PPE which has been used on trees, especially trees suspected to be affected by a pest or disease. Equipment used abroad should be sterilised before going, and again before returning.



Think transport

Movements of infected soil and sawdust on vehicles and machinery are primary pathways for spreading this disease. All machinery and vehicles should therefore be jet washed to remove any soil before leaving sites where this is suspected.



Think trees

All plane trees imported from elsewhere in the European Union must be accompanied by a plane passport. All landings of plane tree plants must be notified to the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) to enable inspection.

