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ARE YOUR SYCAMORE TREES SUFFERING?

Here's why and what to do

What is Sycamore Anthracnose?

Sycamore Anthracnose is a common disease of Sycamore and Plane trees caused by the fungus *Apiognomonina veneta*, which appears as a twig, bud, shoot, and leaf blight.

What does it look like? – Symptoms

The most common symptom of sycamore anthracnose is slow leafing out after mild winters and/or cool, wet springs. Dead areas or blotches on leaves in late spring or summer are also common and leaves may drop off prematurely, but a tree will generally re-flush new leaves later in the summer.

How serious is it? – Damage

Damage is rarely fatal. Even in particularly severe anthracnose years, Sycamores are not killed by this disease. However, if the tree suffers repeated defoliation during the same growing season nutrient reserves can be compromised, which stresses the tree, making it vulnerable to other damaging agents.

What should you do? – Treatment

Treatment of Sycamore anthracnose includes raking and discarding fallen leaves and good tree care such as watering during periods of drought and fertilizing stricken trees to aid in their recovery. There are systemic fungicides that can be administered to protect the tree, but the timing of such treatments should be early

in the spring prior to bud break. Branches with severe dieback or cankers should be pruned to remove the fungus. Always hire a Certified Arborist for best results.

Sycamore and plane trees vary in their susceptibility to anthracnose. Thus, a wide variety of disease reactions are often noticed between trees growing in the same vicinity. Several cultivars of London plane tree are resistant to anthracnose – Bloodgood, Columbia and Liberty are good choices for new tree planting.

About Right Tree-Right Place

A healthy community forest begins with careful planning. Before planting a tree, **carefully consider your surroundings. Trees need space to grow both above and below ground** – consider the type of tree and where it will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. Learn more about selecting the right tree for the right place at

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/>

About Urban Forestry

City of Spokane Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of Spokane. City arborists help manage the urban forest by planting and maintaining trees throughout the City. The thinning of trees in some areas is also done to improve the overall health of various stands of trees in the City's park system. Improving the City's urban forest is an ongoing project that will take decades of work and careful management. In 2010 Spokane received its seventh year in a row designation as a Tree City USA. That program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. For more information please call 509.363.5470 or go online to www.spokaneurbanforestry.org

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