

## Appendix 8 - Pests and Diseases

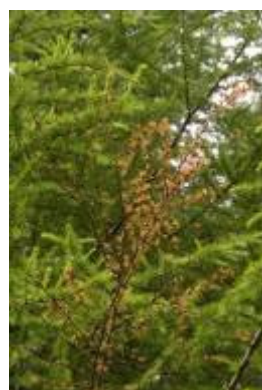


**Name: Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)**

First appearance: mid 1990s

Attacks: Pine species

Often referred to as Red Band Needle Blight (RBNB) and can reduce growth rates by between 70 and 90%. Effects of DNB are managed through thinning the wood more heavily than you would normally to introduce higher levels of air flow through the remaining crop.



**Name: Phytophthora ramorum (Pr)**

First appearance: 2012

Attacks: Oaks and Larches

Found originally in Cornwall in 2009, attacking Oak, and in 2012 found to have infected Larch. It is a notifiable disease dealt with by felling the infected area under a statutory plant health notice (SPHN) issued by DEFRA. At present there is no PR on Oak in this part of the West England Forest District, however, around 12% of all larch within the Dean was felled in 2012 to eradicate the disease with regular aerial flyovers to keep track of hot spots. Luckily flyovers in 2013 and 2014 have shown no reinfection. This is not to say there will not be a need for further fellings of infected larch required in the future.



**Name: Oak 'dieback' or 'decline'**

First appearance: unknown

Affects: Oak

Oak 'dieback' or 'decline' is the name used to describe poor health in oak trees and can be split into Chronic decline and Acute decline. Chronic decline is protracted taking effect on the Oak over a number of decades whilst Acute decline is much swifter acting over much shorter periods usually five years or so. Symptoms can be caused by a range of living agents e.g. insect and fungal attack, or non-living factors, e.g. poor soil and drought. Factors causing decline can vary between sites, as can the effects of the factors through time. Oak decline is not new; oak trees in Britain have been affected for the most part of the past century. Both native species of oak are affected, but Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) more so than Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*). Successive exposure any of these agents on a yearly/seasonal basis further reduces the health of the tree and predisposes it to other living (Biotic) agents that can often spell the final death knell for the tree.



**Name: Chalara fraxinea**

First appearance: currently N/A

Attacks: Ash

Pretty rampant in Europe, showing up in 2012 mainly in East Anglia and along the East coast of England. Infection has not been found within this part of the West England Forest District yet, but the WMU remains under considerable threat of infection into the future with new cases recorded around Usk, Wales and to the north of Bristol in 2014.